HOSA Medical Terminology – Prefixes and Suffixes Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

• Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
• Improve accuracy and speed,
• Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
• Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

1. **Which term means "pain" in medical terminology?**
   A. -algia
   B. -lepsy
   C. -emia
   D. -itis

2. **Which term would use the prefix "masto-"?**
   A. Mastectomy
   B. Nephrology
   C. Cardiology
   D. Orchiectomy

3. **What does the suffix "-graphy" mean?**
   A. The process or result of
   B. Fear of
   C. Flow or discharge
   D. Process of recording

4. **Which suffix is used to denote "pertaining to"?**
   A. -ical
   B. -ic
   C. -ology
   D. -ist

5. **What is indicated by the suffix "-in" or "-ine"?**
   A. Hardening
   B. Many
   C. Substance or chemical
   D. Growth

6. **What does the prefix "Neur-" refer to in medical terms?**
   A. Muscle
   B. Blood
   C. Nerve
   D. Bone

7. **What does the suffix "-lysis" refer to?**

    A. Formation of

    B. Destruction or breakdown

    C. Study of

    D. Infection or removal

8. **In medical terminology, what does "Py-" specifically indicate about a substance?**

    A. It is opaque

    B. It is containing pus

    C. It is transparent

    D. It is volatile

9. **In medical terms, what does the suffix "-itis" typically refer to?**

    A. Swelling

    B. Pain

    C. Inflammation

    D. Infection

10. **What does the prefix "Kerat-" signify in medical terminology?**

    A. Soft

    B. Hard/horny

    C. Inflamed

    D. Unhealthy

Answers

1. A
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. B

Explanations

1. Which term means "pain" in medical terminology?

A. -algia

B. -lepsy

C. -emia

D. -itis

The term that denotes "pain" in medical terminology is indeed represented by the suffix "-algia." This suffix is derived from the Greek word "algos," which means pain. It is commonly used in various medical terms to indicate discomfort or pain associated with a specific body part or system. For example, "neuralgia" refers to pain along the course of a nerve, while "fibromyalgia" signifies pain in the musculoskeletal system along with fatigue and other symptoms. The other options, while related to different medical concepts, do not refer to pain: - "-lepsy" relates to seizures or convulsions, commonly seen in terms like "epilepsy." - "-emia" pertains to blood conditions, as seen in terms like "anemia," which describes a deficiency of red blood cells. - "-itis" indicates inflammation, such as in "arthritis," which means inflammation of the joints. Thus, "-algia" is the correct suffix that directly communicates the concept of pain in medical terminology.

2. Which term would use the prefix "masto-"?

A. Mastectomy

B. Nephrology

C. Cardiology

D. Orchiectomy

The prefix "masto-" specifically refers to the breast. In medical terminology, the term "mastectomy" is the surgical procedure for the removal of one or both breasts, typically performed as a treatment for breast cancer or other breast diseases. The use of "masto-" in this context indicates a direct relation to breast tissue. In contrast, the other choices involve prefixes that pertain to different body organs or systems: "nephrology" involves the kidneys (from "nephro-"), "cardiology" relates to the heart (from "cardio-"), and "orchiectomy" refers to the removal of testicles (from "orchido-"). Thus, the term "mastectomy" is the appropriate choice as it correctly utilizes the "masto-" prefix associated with breast-related medical procedures.

3. What does the suffix "-graphy" mean?

A. The process or result of

B. Fear of

C. Flow or discharge

D. Process of recording

The suffix "-graphy" refers to the process of recording or creating images, often related to capturing a visual representation in various forms. This term is commonly used in medical contexts, such as in "radiography" (the use of radiation to take images) or "biography" (a written account of someone's life).   The key aspect of "-graphy" lies in its connection to documenting or mapping out information, whether through imaging techniques or descriptive writing. This reflects the essence of understanding medical procedures and documentation, making it essential in the medical field.   The other options describe different concepts that do not relate directly to the meaning of "-graphy", emphasizing the importance of being precise with terminology in medical practices.

4. Which suffix is used to denote "pertaining to"?

A. -ical

B. -ic

C. -ology

D. -ist

The suffix that denotes "pertaining to" is indeed the one that is correctly identified. This suffix is commonly used in medical terminology to describe characteristics, qualities, or relationships associated with a particular subject or type of condition.   For example, the suffix "-ic" can be found in words like "gastric," which means pertaining to the stomach. In the context of medicine, this suffix helps to convey that something is directly related to a specified organ or system. The other options do not provide that specific meaning. The suffix "-ical" also implies "pertaining to," but it's generally used in a more specific context, while "-ology" refers to the study of a subject, and "-ist" denotes a person who practices or is skilled in a particular field. This distinction helps clarify why the indicated suffix is the most fitting choice for the meaning "pertaining to."

5. What is indicated by the suffix "-in" or "-ine"?

A. Hardening

B. Many

C. Substance or chemical

D. Growth

The suffix "-in" or "-ine" signifies a substance or chemical, and is commonly used in the context of biochemistry and medicine to refer to various compounds. For example, "insulin" is a protein hormone that regulates glucose levels, and "serotonin" is a neurotransmitter involved in mood regulation. The use of this suffix helps in identifying or categorizing specific types of materials or molecules, particularly those with biological significance.   This differentiation plays a critical role in learning medical terminology, as it allows healthcare professionals and students to discern the nature of various compounds they might encounter in medical texts or practice. Understanding that "-in" or "-ine" directly relates to substances can aid in memorization and recognition of important terms in a clinical setting.

6. What does the prefix "Neur-" refer to in medical terms?

A. Muscle

B. Blood

C. Nerve

D. Bone

The prefix "Neur-" in medical terminology is derived from the Greek word "neuron," which means "nerve." This prefix is commonly used to indicate a relationship to the nervous system and can be found in various medical terms. For example, "neurology" is the study of the nervous system, and "neuron" refers to the nerve cells that carry messages throughout the body. Understanding this prefix is crucial for medical terminology, as it helps in identifying conditions, treatments, and descriptions related to the nervous system. The other provided options refer to different body tissues or systems. Muscle is indicated by the prefix "myo-," blood by "hemat-" or "sanguin-," and bone by "osteo-." Therefore, recognizing that "neur-" specifically pertains to nerves reinforces its importance in the context of neurology and related medical fields.

7. What does the suffix "-lysis" refer to?

A. Formation of

B. Destruction or breakdown

C. Study of

D. Infection or removal

The suffix "-lysis" is derived from the Greek word "lysis," which means "to loosen" or "to break down." In medical terminology, it specifically refers to the process of destruction or breakdown of cells, tissues, or other substances. This term is often used in contexts such as "hemolysis," which is the breakdown of red blood cells, or "autolysis," which refers to the self-digestion of cells through the action of their own enzymes. This focus on the process of breaking down or loosening is what makes this suffix distinctly related to destruction or breakdown, thereby affirming that the chosen answer accurately reflects the meaning of "-lysis."

8. In medical terminology, what does "Py-" specifically indicate about a substance?

A. It is opaque

B. It is containing pus

C. It is transparent

D. It is volatile

In medical terminology, the prefix "py-" specifically indicates that a substance is related to pus. This prefix originates from the Greek word "pur," which means pus. When used in various terms within the medical field, it denotes conditions or substances that involve pus formation, often indicating the presence of an infection or inflammatory process. For example, terms like "pyoderma" refer to a skin condition characterized by the presence of pus. Recognizing this prefix helps in understanding various medical conditions associated with pus and the body's response to infection.

9. In medical terms, what does the suffix "-itis" typically refer to?

A. Swelling

B. Pain

C. Inflammation

D. Infection

The suffix "-itis" is commonly used in medical terminology to denote inflammation of a particular organ or tissue. When you see a term that ends with "-itis," it indicates that there is an inflammatory process taking place. For instance, "arthritis" refers to inflammation of the joints, and "gastritis" refers to inflammation of the stomach lining. This suffix helps healthcare professionals quickly identify and communicate the nature of a condition, particularly that inflammation is involved.   In contrast, the other options relate to different medical phenomena. Swelling can be a result of inflammation but is not specifically defined by the "-itis" suffix. Pain is a symptom that may accompany inflammation but does not define it. Infection can lead to inflammation, but "itis" specifically describes the inflammatory aspect rather than the infectious process itself. Thus, the use of "-itis" clearly designates the presence of inflammation, making it the correct choice.

10. What does the prefix "Kerat-" signify in medical terminology?

    A. Soft

    B. Hard/horny

    C. Inflamed

    D. Unhealthy

The prefix "Kerat-" signifies "hard" or "horny" in medical terminology, particularly in relation to the outer layer of skin or the cornea of the eye. It is derived from the Greek word "keras," meaning "horn." This prefix is commonly used in various medical terms that describe structures or conditions involving the toughness or rigidity of tissue, such as "keratin," a protein found in the skin, hair, and nails that contributes to their hard structure. Understanding this prefix helps in recognizing terms associated with protective layers or hardened tissues in the body.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://hosaprefixsuffixes.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!