

# Introduction to Medical Terminology Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# 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

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- 1. The combining form hepato/o refers to which organ?**
  - A. Liver**
  - B. Heart**
  - C. Stomach**
  - D. Kidney**
  
- 2. The suffix -ic indicates which meaning?**
  - A. Pain**
  - B. Without**
  - C. Pertaining to**
  - D. Infection**
  
- 3. Which suffix indicates 'inflammation'?**
  - A. -itis**
  - B. -osis**
  - C. -ectomy**
  - D. -ostomy**
  
- 4. What does the suffix -algia mean?**
  - A. Pain, suffering**
  - B. Bad, painful, difficult**
  - C. Surgical removal**
  - D. Inflammation**
  
- 5. The suffix -megaly indicates which meaning?**
  - A. Enlargement**
  - B. Liver**
  - C. Softening**
  - D. Artery**
  
- 6. What is the meaning of the suffix dynia?**
  - A. Pain**
  - B. Without**
  - C. Pertaining to**
  - D. Abnormal condition**

- 7. The suffix -ism denotes which meaning?**
- A. Condition**
  - B. Process**
  - C. Abnormal condition**
  - D. Pertaining to**
- 8. What does laryng/o mean?**
- A. Larynx, Throat**
  - B. Nose**
  - C. Ear**
  - D. Stone, Calculus**
- 9. The suffix -ior denotes which meaning?**
- A. Pertaining to**
  - B. Abnormal condition**
  - C. Process**
  - D. Condition of**
- 10. Which suffix indicates 'abnormal condition, disease'?**
- A. -osis**
  - B. -itis**
  - C. -ectomy**
  - D. -ostomy**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. The combining form hepato/o refers to which organ?

- A. Liver**
- B. Heart**
- C. Stomach**
- D. Kidney**

Hepato/o designates the liver. It comes from Greek hepar meaning liver and appears in words like hepatology (the study of the liver), hepatomegaly (enlarged liver), and hepatotoxic (toxic to the liver). Because this combining form specifically names the liver, it points to that organ rather than the heart, stomach, or kidneys, which use cardio-, gastr/o, and nephro- (or ren/o) respectively. So hepato/o is the form that indicates the liver.

### 2. The suffix -ic indicates which meaning?

- A. Pain**
- B. Without**
- C. Pertaining to**
- D. Infection**

The suffix -ic forms adjectives that mean pertaining to or relating to something. So it links a word to its object or field. For example, gastric means pertaining to the stomach, cardiac means pertaining to the heart, and hepatic means pertaining to the liver. In this sense, the ending -ic signals a relationship or association. Pain is typically indicated by endings like -algia or -odynia; without is shown by a prefix such as a- or an-; infection is often described with endings like -itis or -osis or by terms that specify inflammation or disease, rather than by -ic.

### 3. Which suffix indicates 'inflammation'?

- A. -itis**
- B. -osis**
- C. -ectomy**
- D. -ostomy**

The suffix that signals inflammation is -itis. This ending is used in medical terms to name an inflammatory condition affecting the specific organ or tissue described by the root. For example, gastritis means inflammation of the stomach, dermatitis is inflammation of the skin, and appendicitis is inflammation of the appendix. The idea is that -itis flags an inflammatory process rather than simply a disease or a surgical procedure. Other endings carry different meanings. -osis denotes a condition or a process (not necessarily inflammation), -ectomy means surgical removal, and -ostomy means creating a new opening. So recognizing -itis helps you identify inflammation quickly across terms like nephritis (kidney inflammation) or arthritis (joint inflammation).

#### 4. What does the suffix -algia mean?

- A. Pain, suffering**
- B. Bad, painful, difficult**
- C. Surgical removal**
- D. Inflammation**

The main idea here is understanding what the suffix -algia indicates. It signals pain in the part of the body named by the root it attaches to. That's why terms like neuralgia (nerve pain) or myalgia (muscle pain) exist. So -algia literally means pain or suffering, which is why that option is the best answer. The other concepts reflect different word parts: -itis denotes inflammation, -ectomy means surgical removal. Those describe different medical ideas, not the sensation of pain.

#### 5. The suffix -megaly indicates which meaning?

- A. Enlargement**
- B. Liver**
- C. Softening**
- D. Artery**

Think of the suffix -megaly as signaling that something has grown larger. It attaches to a word root that names an organ or structure, and the whole term means that the listed organ or part is enlarged. For example, cardiomegaly means the heart is enlarged, and hepatomegaly means the liver is enlarged. The suffix itself doesn't name the organ; it describes the change in size. Other roots point to the organ (hepat- for liver) or to different processes (malacia for softening), so they don't convey the meaning of enlargement the way -megaly does.

#### 6. What is the meaning of the suffix dynia?

- A. Pain**
- B. Without**
- C. Pertaining to**
- D. Abnormal condition**

Dynia signals pain in a specific area. It comes from Greek odyne, meaning pain, and when attached to the name of a body part it indicates that there is pain in that part. For example, odontodynia means tooth pain, cephalodynia means head pain, and otodynia means ear pain. Because it directly conveys the sense of pain, it is the best fit for the meaning asked. Other suffixes describe different ideas—absence (a-/an-), characteristic of (such as -al or -ic), or abnormal/disease states (-osis, -iasis)—so they don't capture the idea of pain in a region.

## 7. The suffix **-ism** denotes which meaning?

- A. Condition**
- B. Process**
- C. Abnormal condition**
- D. Pertaining to**

The suffix **-ism** forms nouns that name a state or condition. In medical terminology, it's used to describe a disease or health condition—a particular state someone has. That's why it conveys meaning of a condition. It isn't a marker for a process (that would be **-ing** or **-tion**), nor does it mean "pertaining to" (that would be **-al**, **-ic**, etc.). While many conditions can be abnormal, **-ism** itself simply denotes a state or condition, not the abnormality by itself. For example, **hypothyroidism** describes the condition of having insufficient thyroid hormone.

## 8. What does **laryng/o** mean?

- A. Larynx, Throat**
- B. Nose**
- C. Ear**
- D. Stone, Calculus**

The main idea is that the combining form **laryng/o** means the larynx, the voice box in the throat. The larynx sits just below the pharynx and above the trachea, houses the vocal cords, and is essential for voice production and protecting the airway during swallowing. That's why terms built with **laryng/o** refer to the larynx, such as **laryngitis** (inflammation of the larynx) or **laryngoscope** (an instrument to view the larynx). It isn't related to the nose (**rhin/o**), the ear (**ot/o**), or stone/calculus (**lith/o**), so those meanings don't fit.

## 9. The suffix **-ior** denotes which meaning?

- A. Pertaining to**
- B. Abnormal condition**
- C. Process**
- D. Condition of**

Think about how these terms describe where or how something is related to a body part. The ending **-ior** turns a root into an adjective that means relating to or pertaining to a part or direction. You can see this in **anterior** and **posterior**, which describe the front and back relative to something. So the suffix **-ior** conveys the meaning "pertaining to." It's not used to signal an abnormal condition (that's typically **-osis** or **-pathy**), nor a process (**-ation** or **-ing**), nor a generic "condition of" sense (which would come from different suffixes).

**10. Which suffix indicates 'abnormal condition, disease'?**

- A. -osis**
- B. -itis**
- C. -ectomy**
- D. -ostomy**

The suffix -osis signals an abnormal condition or disease. It's used to name states or disease processes, such as cirrhosis (liver disease), nephrosis (kidney disease), and osteoporosis (bone loss). The other endings have different meanings: -itis = inflammation, -ectomy = surgical removal, -ostomy = creating an opening. So -osis is the best indicator of an abnormal condition or disease.

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# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://introtomedterms.examzify.com>**

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

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