

Learning Terminology



Objectives



After studying this chapter, you will be able to :

- **Explain how medical terms are developed.**
- **Describe the process of pluralizing terms.**
- **Describe how to interpret pronunciation marks.**
 - **Approximately 75% of Medical Terms are based on either Greek or Latin**

Derivation of Medical Terminology

- **The study of the origin of words is called **etymology**.**
- **Many medical terms used today are based on **Ancient Greek and Latin**.**
- **Word building became and remains the primary way to describe new medical discoveries.**

Derivation of Medical Terminology

Word knowledge was primarily passed on through only verbal communication which resulted in words being pronounced very differently.

The word *heart* is derived from Old English *heorte* which comes from a word related to Greek *kardia* which means heart.

Pluralizing Terms

Rules

- Add **s** to words ending in any vowel or consonant except **s, x, z, or y** (ex. **joint-joints**)

- Add **es** to words ending in **s, x, or z** (ex. **reflex - reflexes**)

Pluralizing Terms

Rules Cont'd

- Remove **x** and add **`ces** to Latin words ending in **x** (ex. **appendix - appendices**)
- Remove the **`y** and add **`ies** to words ending in **`y** preceded by a consonant (ex. **mastectomy - mastectomies**)

Pluralizing Terms

Rules Cont'd

- When an ending `y is preceded by a vowel, the usual plural suffix is `s (ex. **boy - boys**)
- Add `e to Latin terms ending in a (ex. **lamina - laminae**)

Pluralizing Terms

Rules Cont'd

- Remove `us and add `i to Latin words ending in us (ex. **bacillus- bacilli**)
- Change `sis to `ses in Greek words ending in sis (ex. **psychosis - psychoses**)

Pluralizing Terms

Rules Cont'd

- Remove `on from and add `a to Greek words ending in `on (ex. **crit^{er}ion** - **crit^{er}ia**)
- Remove `um from and add `a to Latin words ending in um (ex. **divertic^{ul}um** - **divertic^{ul}a**)

Pluralizing Rules

Latin

Singular	Plural
-----------------	---------------

•fossa	fossae
--------	--------

•datum	data
--------	------

•radix	radices
--------	---------

Greek

Singular	Plural
-----------------	---------------

•neurosis	neuroses
-----------	----------

•ganglion	ganglia
-----------	---------

•calyx	calyces
--------	---------

Spelling and Pronunciation of Medical Terms

Misspellings and mispronunciations in a medical setting can result in life threatening situations



“The patient was to have a *cholectomy NOT a colectomy!!*”

Spelling and Pronunciation of Medical Terms

Pronouncing a word out loud each time you see the pronunciation will help familiarize you with the sound of the word.



reflex
RE-fleks

anemia
a-NE-me-a

typhoid
TI-foyd

Long and short vowels are a guide to help you pronounce words.

Apply Your Knowledge

Which of the following statements is correct regarding the derivation of medical terms?

A. The change in medical terms has been drastic over the years.

B. The change in medical terms has not been drastic over the years.

Answer B.

Apply Your Knowledge

Make each of the following terms plural.

staphylococcus



staphylococci

vasectomy



vasectomies

paraplegic



paraplegics

appendix



appendices