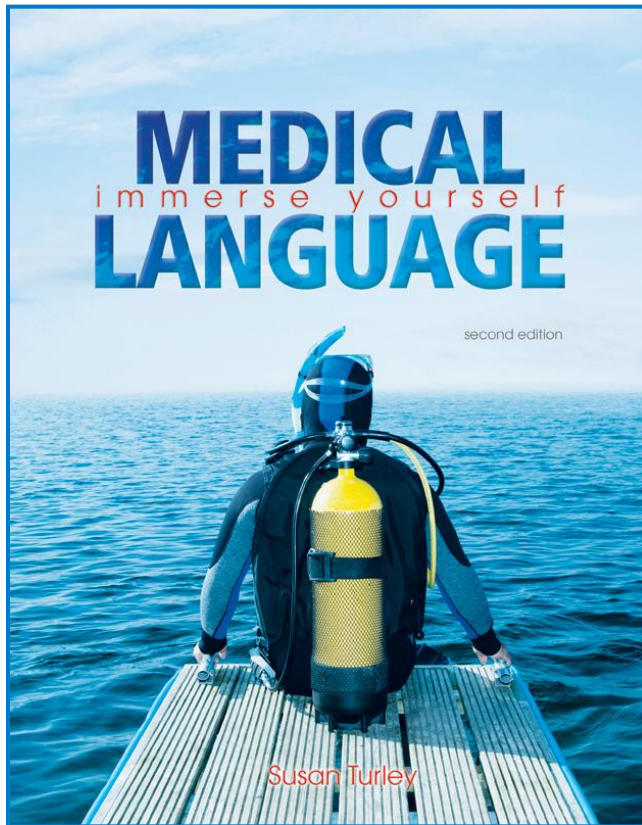


Medical Language

Second Edition



CHAPTER 1

The Structure of Medical Language

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the five skills of medical language communication.
2. Describe the origins of medical language.
3. Recognize common Latin and Greek singular nouns and form their plurals.
4. Describe characteristics of combining forms, suffixes, and prefixes.

Learning Objectives

5. Give the medical meaning of common word parts.
6. Build medical words from word parts and divide medical words into word parts.
7. Spell and pronounce common medical words.

Learning Objectives

8. Describe the format and contents of common medical documents.
9. Dive deeper into the structure of medical language by reviewing the activities at the end of this chapter and online at Medical Terminology Interactive.

Medical Language and Communication

- Communication in any language consists of five language skills.
- These same five language skills are important in medical language.

The Five Medical Language Skills

- Reading
- Listening
- Thinking, analyzing, and understanding
- Writing (or typing) and spelling
- Speaking and pronouncing



Figure 1-2 Medical language communication

The Beginning of Medical Language

- **Etymology** is the study of word origins and derivations.
- Many words have been derived from other languages.
- Many medical words come from the ancient Latin or Greek language.

The Beginning of Medical Language (cont'd)

- Some medical words are identical to Latin or Greek words.
- Some medical words are similar (but not identical) to Latin or Greek words.
- Some medical words are similar to words from old English, Dutch, and French.

The Beginning of Medical Language (cont'd)

<i>Medical Word</i>	<i>Language of Origin</i>
nucleus	Latin <i>nucleus</i>
pelvis	Latin <i>pelvis</i>
sinus	Latin <i>sinus</i>
paranoia	Greek <i>paranoia</i>
thorax	Greek <i>thorax</i>

The Beginning of Medical Language (cont'd)

<i>Medical Word</i>	<i>Language of Origin</i>
artery	Latin <i>arteria</i>
muscle	Latin <i>musculus</i>
vein	Latin <i>vena</i>
phobia	Greek <i>phobos</i>
sperm	Greek <i>sperma</i>

The Beginning of Medical Language (cont'd)

<i>Medical Word</i>	<i>Language of Origin</i>
bladder	English <i>blaedre</i>
heart	English <i>heorte</i>
drug	Dutch <i>droog</i>
physician	French <i>physicien</i>

Medical Singular and Plural Nouns

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>-a</i>	Change <i>-a</i> to <i>-ae</i>	vertebra → vertebrae
<i>-us</i>	Change <i>-us</i> to <i>-i</i>	bronchus → bronchi
<i>-um</i>	Change <i>-um</i> to <i>-a</i>	bacterium → bacteria
<i>-is</i>	Change <i>-is</i> to <i>-es</i>	testis → testes

Medical Singular and Plural Nouns

<i>Singular Ending</i>	<i>How to Form the Plural</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>-ex, -ix</i>	Change <i>-ex</i> to <i>-ices</i> Change <i>-ix</i> to <i>-ices</i>	apex → apices helix → helices
<i>-nx</i>	Change <i>-nx</i> to <i>-nges</i>	phalanx → phalanges
<i>-on</i>	Change <i>-on</i> to <i>-a</i>	ganglion → ganglia

Medical Singular and Plural Nouns

<i>Singular Ending</i>	<i>How to Form the Plural</i>	<i>Example</i>
<i>-is</i>	Change <i>-is</i> to <i>-ides</i>	iris → irides
<i>-oma</i>	Change <i>-oma</i> to <i>-omata</i>	fibroma → fibromata