



كلية المستقبل الجامعة

قسم تقنيات بصرية

Medical Terminology

المصطلحات الطبية

المرحلة الأولى

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Lecture three: Prefixes

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Lecture objectives

- Understand the meaning of prefixes
- Know many types of prefixes genera
- Practice the examples of many medical prefixes

Introduction

A prefix is a part of a word that is added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning.

These syllables aren't usually words on their own, but they are very important when it comes to understanding new words in English.

Learning to recognize these number prefixes and memorizing their meanings will make it easier to figure out what unfamiliar words mean.

If you already know the root word, you can often decode the definition by putting the meaning of the prefix and root word together.

Prefixes of Numbers & Measures

•Meter (length)

Ex: milli-meter, kilo-meter

•Gram (mass)

Ex: milli-gram, kilo-gram

•Liter (volume)

Ex: milli-liter

Bi-	Two
dipl/o	Two, double
hemi-	Half
hyper-	Over or more than usual
hypo-	Under or less than usual
iso-	equal, same
macro-	large
megal/o	enlargement
micro-	small
mono-	one
multi-	many
nulli-	none
poly-	many
semi-	half, partial
tri-	three
uni-	one

Prefixes can be grouped into categories based on their meanings.

The different categories of prefixes are size, time, negative, and location. We are going to discuss the prefixes that indicate size, time and place.

There are three basic word parts to a medical term.

They are the prefix, word root, and suffix. The prefix is the word part that is found at the beginning of the term that serve to help narrow down or make the meanings of medical terms more specific.



Size

Micro-:is a prefix that means 'tiny' or 'small.'

Terms that may include this prefix are

'microscope,' 'microorganism,' 'microcyte.'

'Microscope': is the term used to describe an instrument used for viewing small objects,

since 'scope' means 'instrument used for viewing.'

Microorganism. 'Organism' is a word that we use to describe living things. Therefore, a

'microorganism' is a 'small or tiny living thing.' This term is actually reserved for organisms

that are too tiny to be seen with the naked eye.

Microcytes: 'Cytes' is a suffix that means 'cells,' so 'microcytes' are 'tiny cells.'

Macro: It's another prefix indicating size is the one that is the opposite of micro-.

'Macro' means 'large.' Terms that may include this prefix are 'macromolecules,'

'macroscopic,' 'macrophage,' and 'macromyocardia.'

Macromolecules: means 'large molecules.' This can refer to molecules inside or outside of the body that are large. This can include things such as proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and our DNA.

Macroscopic: is used as a term to describe anything that is 'large enough that it can be seen with the naked eye.' You are an example of something that is macroscopic.

Macrophage is composed of the word parts 'macro-' and '-phage.' The suffix '-phage'

means something that eats or engulfs, so 'macrophage' means 'something large that eats

or engulfs.' This term is reserved for describing the immune cells in our bodies that eat or engulf foreign objects in the body.

These cells are considered large because they are the largest of our immune blood cells