

Medical Term Decoding Worksheet

Practice & Application · Handout 5 of 6

05 / 06

Use this worksheet to practice breaking medical terms into their component parts. Identify each prefix (P), word root/combining form (WR/CF), and suffix (S), then write the meaning.

Part A — Decoding Terms (Break Apart & Define)

For each term, identify the parts (Prefix | Word Root | Suffix) and write the full meaning.

Term	Prefix	Word Root(s)	Suffix	Meaning
1. hepatomegaly				
2. bradycardia				
3. polyuria				
4. osteoporosis				
5. dyspnea				
6. subcutaneous				
7. cholecystitis				
8. hemiplegia				
9. leukocytopenia				
10. nephrology				
11. hypertension				
12. tachypnea				
13. encephalitis				
14. arthroscopy				
15. mastectomy				
16. hypoglycemia				
17. rhinoplasty				
18. splenomegaly				
19. neuropathy				
20. pericarditis				

Part B — Build the Term (Fill In the Blank)

Using the definition provided, construct the correct medical term from its word parts.

- Inflammation of the stomach _____
- Surgical removal of the gallbladder _____
- Abnormal condition of the kidney (stones) _____
- Pertaining to within the vein _____
- Rapid heartbeat (> 100 bpm) _____
- Enlargement of the liver _____

7.	Inflammation of the appendix	_____
8.	Surgical incision into the abdomen	_____
9.	Deficiency of white blood cells	_____
10.	Softening of the bones	_____
11.	Tumor of a gland	_____
12.	Visual examination of the colon	_____
13.	Excessive thirst	_____
14.	Bleeding from the nose	_____
15.	Abnormal condition of bearing no children	_____

Part C — True / False

Circle T (True) or F (False) for each statement.

T / F	1. The prefix 'brady-' means fast.
T / F	2. The suffix '-ectomy' means surgical removal.
T / F	3. 'Hepat/o' is the combining form for liver.
T / F	4. 'Hypo-' means above or excessive.
T / F	5. The suffix '-itis' means inflammation.
T / F	6. 'Nephro-' refers to the urinary bladder.
T / F	7. 'Poly-' means many or much.
T / F	8. The suffix '-logy' means study of.
T / F	9. 'Dys-' means normal or easy.
T / F	10. The combining form 'cardi/o' means heart.

Answer Key

Part A: 1. hepat/o + -megaly = liver enlargement | 2. brady- + cardi/o + -ia = slow heart condition | 3. poly- + ur/o + -ia = excessive urination | 4. oste/o + por/o + -osis = porous bone condition | 5. dys- + -pnea = difficult breathing | 6. sub- + cutane/o + -ous = pertaining to below the skin | 7. chol/e + cyst/o + -itis = inflammation of the gallbladder | 8. hemi- + -plegia = paralysis of one half | 9. leuk/o + cyt/o + -penia = deficiency of white cells | 10. nephro/o + -logy = study of the kidney | 11. hyper- + tens/o + -ion = elevated blood pressure | 12. tachy- + -pnea = rapid breathing | 13. encephal/o + -itis = brain inflammation | 14. arthr/o + -scopy = visual exam of a joint | 15. mast/o + -ectomy = removal of the breast | 16. hypo- + glyco/o + -emia = low blood sugar | 17. rhin/o + -plasty = surgical repair of the nose | 18. splen/o + -megaly = spleen enlargement | 19. neur/o + -pathy = nerve disease | 20. peri- + cardi/o + -itis = inflammation around the heart

Part B: 1. gastritis | 2. cholecystectomy | 3. nephrolithiasis | 4. intravenous | 5. tachycardia | 6. hepatomegaly | 7. appendicitis | 8. laparotomy | 9. leukocytopenia | 10. osteomalacia | 11. adenoma | 12. colonoscopy | 13. polydipsia | 14. epistaxis | 15. nulliparity

Part C: 1-F | 2-T | 3-T | 4-F | 5-T | 6-F | 7-T | 8-T | 9-F | 10-T