

Foramen

Bronch-

Chondr-

Card-

Dactyl, Digit

Cut, Derm

Ped-, Pod

Gastr-

Hepat-

Neph-
ren

Relating to the airways

e.g. a bronchoscope is a tool to visualise the inside of the tubes entering the lungs

An opening in bone

e.g. Infraorbital foramen = An opening in the bone below the eye for nerves & vessels to pass

Relating to the heart

e.g. cardiology is the study of the heart

Relating to Cartilage

e.g. Chondrocyte = Cartilage cell

Relating to the skin

e.g. Dermatology = study of the skin,
subcutaneous = under the skin

Relating to the fingers or toes

e.g. polydactyl = additional fingers or toes,
extensor digitorum longus – is a long muscle that extends the digits at their joints

Relating to the stomach

e.g. gastroscopy is a procedure that uses an endoscope to visualise the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum

Relating to the foot

e.g. podiatry is the medical specialty that focusses on the health of the feet

Relating to the kidney

e.g. Renal vein = Vessel carrying blood away from kidney

Relating to the liver

e.g. Hepatitis = Inflammation of the liver (usually caused by viral infection)

A-
An
Non

Hyper-

Super, Supra

Hypo-
Infra- Infer- Sub-

Quad, Tetra

Anti-
Contra-

Erythr-

Ost-

Re-, Retro

Palp, Tact

Over, Excessive

e.g. Hypertonic = Greater solute concentration
Hyperesthesia = Excessive/over sensitivity

Without, Not

e.g. Apnea = Not breathing
Anuria = Without urine

Under, Below, Less

Hypotonic = Lesser solute concentration
Submandibular = under the jaw

Above or over

e.g. superior sagittal sinus, suggests there is a sinus below it too
suprapubic catheter is one that is inserted directly into the bladder above the pubic bone of the pelvis

Against, Resisting

e.g. Antibody = Resisting a foreign body (pathogen)
Contraception = Against conception (egg + sperm)

Four

e.g. quadriceps are the four muscles that sit in the anterior (front) of the thigh

Bone

e.g. Osteoblast = Maker of new bone cells
Osteomyelitis = Bone infection

Red

e.g. Erythrocyte = Red blood cell

Touch

e.g. palpation is the examination of anatomical structures through touch
Tactile is related to the sense of touching

Past, back, again

e.g. retrograde blood flow, where blood flows in the opposite direction

-itis

-megaly

-phasia

-cyte

-ostomy

-logy
-ist
-ician

-gen
-poie
-blast

-ectomy
-tom
-sect

-alg

-plasia

Enlargement

e.g. Splenomegaly = Enlargement of the spleen (usually due to infection)

Inflammation

e.g. Appendicitis = Inflammation (swelling, redness, warmth, & pain) of the appendix

Cell

e.g. Leukocyte = White (leu) blood cell

Speech

e.g. Dysphagia = Difficulty speaking

Study of, Specialist

e.g. Cardiology = Study of heart, Pharmacist = Drug/medicinal specialist

Make an opening

e.g. Tracheostomy = Make an opening in the trachea/windpipe – due to blocked pharynx/throat)

Cut, Cut out

e.g. Appendectomy = Cut out appendix
Lobotomy = Cut out cerebral (brain) lobe
Dissect = Cut in two (di = 2)

Create, Form

e.g. Oogenesis = Create an egg
Hemopoiesis = Form new blood cells
Osteoblast = Make new bone cells

Growth, Formation

e.g. Hyperplasia = Excessive growth (tumor)

Pain

e.g. Neuralgia = Nerve pain
Fibromyalgia = Muscle pain



Lesson plan

1. Print out the following pages, double-sided
2. Cut into individual cards with the prefix/suffix on one side and the definition on the other
3. This works best in small groups or pairs
4. Start with a 5min intro on the aim of the session and defining the terms prefixes, roots and suffixes
5. Provide a few examples of complicated clinical/anatomical terms on the board/screens for them to aim to define by the end of the activity i.e. osteogenesis imperfectus, supraorbital foramen etc.
6. Lay the cards out with the prefix, root or suffix uppermost
7. Students should then define the word before picking it up to check the definition. This will become more difficult as they go on.
8. At the end of the session get them to help you break down your complicated clinical/anatomical terms to illustrate what they have learned