

STEDMAN'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY

MEDICAL ETYMOLOGY

Organization

The origin or etymology of a boldface entry term is given in square brackets [] at the end of the entry. Of necessity, such derivations are brief and have been kept as simple as possible to facilitate memory and promote association with similar derivatives. The information provided has three basic components: (1) the abbreviation of the language to which the original word(s) belongs; (2) in italics, the original word(s) from which the term is derived; and (3) the English translation of the word(s). For Greek and Latin verbs, the first-person singular present form, rather than the infinitive, is used for more ready recognition of the root word; however, the English translation is given in the infinitive form:

diphtheria (dif-thēr'ē-ă). *Avoid the misspelling/mispronunciation*
diphtheria. A specific infectious disease. . . [G. *diphthera*, leather]

graph (graf). *Do not confuse this word with graft.* **1.** A line or tracing denoting varying values. . . [G. *graphō*, to write].

union (yūn'yŭn). **1.** Joining or amalgamation. . . [L. *unus*, one]

When the boldface entry term has the same or approximately the same meaning and/or spelling as the word(s) from which it is derived, the redundant material is not included in the derivation, as in the following example:

locus, pl. **loci** (lō'kŭs, lō'sī). **1.** A place; usually, a specific site. **2.** The position that a gene occupies on a chromosome. **3.** The position of a point, as defined by the coordinates on a graph. [L.]

Derivations frequently include additional components, especially when such derivation involves compound words or more than one word from one or more languages. A Greek or Latin verb may be hyphenated to indicate that the second part of the word exists as a simple verb with the same or approximately the same meaning, qualified by the addition of an adjectival or adverbial prefix; if the simple verb undergoes a change when forming part of a compound verb, that change is also shown:

apocrine (ap'ō-krin). *Its definition notwithstanding, the etymology of this word is unrelated to apex.* Denoting a mechanism of glandular secretion in which the apical portion of secretory cells is shed and incorporated into the secretion. SEE ALSO *apocrine gland*. [G. *apo-krin*-o, to separate]

component (kom-pō'nent). An element forming a part of the whole. [L. *com-pono*, pp. *-positus*, to place together]

When words originating from more than one language are part of a derivation, the language of each word and the word's English translation are given; when the words are from the same language, the language is indicated only for the first word:

apicectomy (ap'ī-sek'tō-mē). **1.** Opening and exenteration of air cells. . . [L. *apex*, summit or tip, + G. *ektome*, excision]

Prefixes and Suffixes

Combining forms used as prefixes or within compound words are listed in the vocabulary as boldface main entries with their own bracketed derivations and full definitions. They are preceded by the recycle symbol. When combining forms appear in bracketed derivations of other boldface entry terms that follow alphabetically in the vocabulary their language of origin and English translation are not given:

neur-, neuro-, neuro-. Nerve, nerve tissue, the nervous system. [G. *neuron*]

neuralgia (nū-ral'jē-ǎ). Pain of a severe, throbbing, or stabbing character in the course or distribution of a nerve. SYN neurodynia. [neur- + G. *algos*, pain]

Combining forms used as suffixes and terminations are also listed in the vocabulary as boldface main entries with their own bracketed derivations and full definitions. When used in bracketed derivations of other boldface entry items, the language of origin is indicated (only if different from the preceding word), and the English translation is given:

-osis, pl. **-oses**. Nouns ending in *-osis* typically form adjectives ending in *-otic*. Thus, *cyanosis*–*cyanotic*, *dyskaryosis*–*dyskaryotic*. Suffix meaning a process, condition, or state, usually abnormal or diseased; production or increase, physiologic or pathologic; an invasion. . .[G.]

halitosis (hal-i-tō'sis). A foul odor from the mouth. SYN fetor oris, ozostomia, stomatodysodia. [L. *halitus*, breath, + G. *-osis*, condition]