

STEDMAN'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY

ORGANIZATION OF ENTRIES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Main Entry and Subentry Format

A **main entry** is the single-word or term under which multiple-word entries can be grouped. Subentries are grouped alphabetically under their governing main entry and have pronunciations for eponyms and some non-English terms. For example:

Main entry → **groove** (grūv). A narrow, elongated depression or furrow on any surface...

Subentry → **alveolobuccal groove**, the upper and lower portions of the buccal vestibule...

The definition is given at only one location for two or more synonymous terms. Entries for the other synonymous terms are cross-referenced to the term where the definition is to be found. This system is also used for obsolete or outmoded terms, for spelling variations, or when there is a definite preference dictated by its usage. The practice of placing a definition at only one location primarily serves to focus all the information concerning a term at a single place, rather than strictly as an indicator of preference. It also avoids duplication of definitions.

Main Entries

Defined main entries usually are constructed as follows: (1) boldface entry word followed by its abbreviation or symbol (if any) in parentheses, (2) pronunciation in parentheses, (3) usage note (if applicable), (4) the definition proper, and (5) the derivation in brackets.

electrocardiogram (ECG, EKG) (ě-lek'trō-kahr'dē-ō-gram)

Do not confuse this word with electrocardiograph.

Graphic record of the heart's integrated action currents obtained with the electrocardiograph displayed as voltage changes over time. [*electro-* + G. *kardia*, heart, + *gramma*, a drawing]

Boldface numbers followed by a period distinguish multiple definitions, but their numerical sequence does not necessarily indicate importance or preference:

mesocardia (mez'ō-kahr'dē-ă).

1. Atypical position of the heart in a central position in the thorax, as in early embryonic life.

2. Plural of mesocardium.

[meso- + G. *kardia*, heart]

Synonyms follow the final definition of a term and are preceded by "SYN." A lightface number in parentheses following a synonym indicates the particular definition of that term with which the boldface entry word is synonymous. If an entry or main entry is followed by a synonym and no other definition (the synonym will appear in blue type), readers must reference the synonym to find the definition.

nephropathy (ně-frop'ă-thē). Any disease of the kidney. SYN [nephropathia](#) SYN [nephrosis](#) (1)
[*nepbro-* + G. *pathos*, suffering]

Systematic names of defined trivial or generic chemical and drug terms appear at the beginning of the definition:

acetone (as'ĕ-tōn). A colorless, volatile, inflammable liquid;...SYN dimethyl ketone.

aspirin (as'pir-in). A widely used analgesic, antipyretic, and antiinflammatory agent; also used as an antiplatelet agent. Although a generic in the U.S., aspirin remains a proprietary name in other countries. SYN [acetylsalicylic acid](#)

Subentries

Defined subentries are organized much like main entries, as already described. Pronunciation and derivation are provided when the principal words making up the subentry term are not provided as main entries in the vocabulary, as in the following example:

folie du doute (fō-lē' dū dūt), obsolete term for an excessive doubting about all the affairs of life and a morbid scrupulousness concerning minutiae. [Fr. from doubt]

Cross-References

Cross-references may be main entries or subentries or may be part of a main entry or subentry definition. They may direct the user to a defined entry or to an entry where additional or related information can be found. *Stedman's* uses the following types of cross-references:

Synonym A word that has the same meaning as the entry. When a synonym occurs at a term without a definition, it appears in blue after "SYN." For example:

boil (boyl). SYN [furuncle](#). [A.S. *byl*, a swelling]

When the relevant synonym is a multiple-word term located as a subentry, the governing main entry word under which it will be found is italicized, as in the following example:

candle-power (kan'dĕl-pow'ĕr). SYN [luminous intensity](#).

SEE Refers the reader to a term with a meaning similar to that of the entry.

SEE ALSO Refers the reader to a term with further information about the entry.

Cf. (L. confer, compare) and q./v. (L. quod vide, which see) Refers the reader to comparative or related information, but with a less direct relationship than a SEE ALSO reference.

Obsolete term for The term is no longer widely used. For the most part, the reader is referred to the term in current use, unless the term defines an outmoded concept, practice, or thing.

Eponyms

Eponyms are terms that are named after people and places. In nearly every case, a brief biography appears at a person's name, along with a cross-reference to the eponym, unless no details about the person's life were available, in which case no separate biographic entry was useful.

Sylvius (sil'vĕ-ŭs), Le Bœ, Franciscus (François), Dutch physician, anatomist, and physiologist, 1614–1672. SEE *sylvian angle*, *sylvian aqueduct*, *sylvian fissure*, *sylvian line*, *sylvian point*, *sylvian valve*, *sylvian ventricle*; *fossa* of Sylvius; *vallecula sylvii*.

Wilms (vilmz), Max, German surgeon, 1867–1918. SEE Wilms *tumor*.

Reflecting the trend in current publications, this edition of *Stedman's* drops the possessive form for eponymous terms.

Abbreviations and Symbols

Abbreviations and symbols, as well as acronyms and other contractions, are included in the vocabulary if they are accepted usage as opposed to ad hoc creations. They are located as main entries, generally as cross-references to the spelled-out terms where they are cited parenthetically in boldface immediately after the boldface entry word(s):

Cyt Symbol for cytosine
cytosine (Cyt) (si'tō-sĕn). A pyrimidine found in nucleic acids.

PET Abbreviation for positron emission *tomography*
positron emission tomography (PET), creation of tomographic images...

Some abbreviations and symbols are self-explanatory or are more appropriately defined at their entries than at a contrived entry for the spelled-out terms:

b.i.d. Abbreviation for L. *bis in die*, twice a day.

FUO Abbreviation for fever of unknown origin.

PUVA Acronym for oral administration of *psoralen* and subsequent exposure to long wavelength ultraviolet light (*uv-a*); used to treat psoriasis.

Q_{CO2} Symbol for the microliters STPD of CO₂ given off per milligram of tissue per hour.

Abbreviations may appear with or without periods. Some nomenclatural conventions have eliminated the period from certain types of abbreviations. General use of periods with most abbreviations is progressively declining, but in some instances periods are retained to avoid confusion.