

**Medical Jargon**

Lesson 2 of 2

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**Grade Level:** 5-8

**Subjects:** Science, Language Arts

**Prep Time:** < 10 minutes

**Activity Duration:** One class period

**Materials Category:** None

National Education Standards				
Science	Mathematics	Technology		Geography
8a, 8c				

**Objective:** Identify root words in medical terminology and use those root words to decipher the meaning of the terminology.

**Materials:**

- None

**Related Links:**

yourDictionary.com—used for definitions of words and roots

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>

NASA Site—related activity pertaining to root words—easier prefixes and roots

[http://asd-www.larc.nasa.gov/SCOOOL/////////lesson\\_plans/Use\\_Anemometer.html](http://asd-www.larc.nasa.gov/SCOOOL/////////lesson_plans/Use_Anemometer.html)



### Medical Jargon

Teacher Sheets

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#### Background

Discuss the importance of having a common name for use in communication between people. An example of confusion could be as simple as the word for a house cat. In various languages, it is katze, chat, kot, and gato. The scientific name is felis catus, which is used when scientists want to avoid misunderstandings.

These types of mix-ups are very important to avoid when it involves medical terminology. These agreed-upon names are used when writing papers or giving presentations.

#### Guidelines

1. Read the article “Eavesdropping on Baby.” Talk about the scientific advances mentioned in the article.
2. Explain that most of the language that doctors use is derived from Latin root words, and by knowing a few of these roots, students understand many combinations of words.
3. Ask the students if they know any root words. They should be able to identify many. Tri, bi, uni are all roots that can be used with another root: cycle.
4. Hand out the student sheets, go over the instructions, and allow them to work on it. If they need additional information, some of the other roots on the sheet are listed below. It might be helpful to let the students discover these roots on their own by leading them with examples.

Endo-	within, inside
Hypo-	under, beneath
Peri-	around, near
Poly-	many, several
Tachy-	rapid, accelerated
-gram	drawing, record
-asthenia	lack or loss of strength
-scope	means for viewing or observing

#### Discussion / Wrap-up

- Go over the answers, and discuss what the students have learned.

#### Extensions

- Use this activity to jump-start a lesson on Binomial Nomenclature. The species and genus names for many animals are easy to derive from root words.
- Apply knowledge obtained from this activity towards the naming of human body parts.



## Medical Jargon Answer Sheet

	Definition	Medical Term
<u>E</u>	1. Inflammation of the stomach	A. Dermatologist
<u>M</u>	2. Branch of medicine concerned with the study of the nervous system	B. Electrocardiogram
<u>J</u>	3. Malfunction of the kidneys	C. Endocarditis
<u>F</u>	4. Inflammation of the liver	D. Gastrectomy
<u>T</u>	5. Abnormally rapid beating of the heart	E. Gastritis
<u>N</u>	6. Small mirror used by dentists to view teeth	F. Hepatitis
<u>P</u>	7. Infection of the bone marrow by bacteria	G. Hypodermic
<u>H</u>	8. Pain in a muscle or muscles	H. Myalgia
<u>K</u>	9. Surgical removal of a kidney	I. Myasthenia gravis
<u>B</u>	10. Graph showing the heartbeat	J. Nephrosis
<u>O</u>	11. Destruction of bone by surgery or disease	K. Nephrectomy
<u>R</u>	12. Disease in which pus forms at the roots of the teeth	L. Neuralgia
<u>G</u>	13. Injection of fluid medicine under the skin by means of a syringe	M. Neurology
<u>Q</u>	14. Fungus infection of the external ear and ear canal	N. Odontoscope
<u>S</u>	15. General inflammation of the peripheral nervous system	O. Osteoclasia
<u>C</u>	16. Inflammation of the heart lining	P. Osteomyelitis
<u>D</u>	17. Surgical removal of a part of the stomach	Q. Otomycosis
<u>L</u>	18. Severe pain along a peripheral nerve	R. Periodontitis
<u>I</u>	19. Disease in which the muscles are weak and tire easily	S. Polyneuritis
<u>A</u>	20. Specialist in diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders	T. Tachycardia



### Medical Jargon

*Student Sheets*

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#### Objective

Identify root words in medical terminology and use those root words to decipher the meaning of the terminology.

#### Materials

- None

#### Guidelines

Many medical terms refer to various parts of the human body. These words are formed by root words that are put together. If you understand the root words, you can understand the whole word used by doctors when they are using their “medical jargon.”

The list below contains some common root words used in medicine for parts of the body. Most are derived from Latin or Greek. These roots are usually used as prefixes, which means they start the word. But, be careful! Sometimes they are hidden in the middle of a term.

cardio-	heart
hepat-	liver
neuro-	nerve
oto-	ear
derm-	skin
myo-	muscle
odont-	tooth
gastro-	stomach
nephro-	kidney
osteo-	bone

Have you heard some of these roots before? Using these roots and the word endings—or suffixes—below, match the definition to the medical term on the worksheet.

-itis	infection, inflammation
-ology	the study of
-ectomy	surgical removal
-algia	pain



## Medical Jargon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Match the term with its definition. Write the letter for each term in front of the definition.

	Definition	Medical Term
_____	1. Inflammation of the stomach	A. Dermatologist
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_____	3. Malfunction of the kidneys	C. Endocarditis
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