

# Medical Vocabulary

P&O Lecture

word part of speech	Meaning	example sentence
abnormal adj	not normal for the human body	This amount of weight loss is abnormal specially for women.
ache noun/verb	pain that won't go away	I can't sleep because my knees ache in the night.
acute adj	quick to become severe/bad	We knew the baby was coming right away because the woman's labour pains were acute.
allergy noun allergic adj	a body's abnormal reaction to certain foods or environmental substances (eg causes a rash)	Your son is extremely allergic to peanuts.

<b>amputation noun</b> <b>amputate verb</b>	<b>permanent removal of a limb</b>	<b>We had to amputate his leg because the infection spread so quickly.</b>
<b>anti-depressant noun</b>	medication that helps relieve anxiety and sadness	The anti-depressantshelped me get on with life after Lucy died.
<b>appointment noun</b>	a scheduled meeting with a medical professional	I've made you an appointment with a specialist in three week's time.
<b>arthritis noun</b>	a disease that causes the joints to become swollen and crippled	My grandmother can't knit anymore because the arthritis in her hands is so bad.
<b>bedsore noun</b>	wounds that develop on a patient's body from lying in one place for too long	If you don't get up and take a walk, you will develop painful bedsores.

<b>biopsy</b> noun	removal of human tissue in order to conduct certain medical tests	The biopsy ruled out a number of illnesses.
<b>blood count</b> noun	the amount of red and white blood cells a person has	You will be happy to know that your blood count is almost back to normal.
<b>blood donor</b> noun	a person who gives blood to a blood bank or other person	Blood donors have to answer questions about their medical history.
<b>blood pressure</b> noun	the rate at which blood flows through the body (high/low)	High blood pressure puts you at risk of having a heart attack.
<b>brace</b> noun	a device that holds injured body parts in place	You will probably always have to wear a brace on your ankle when you jog.

<b>broken</b> adj	a bone that is divided in two or more pieces as a result of an injury	We thought it was just a sprain, but it turned out his leg was broken.
<b>bruise</b> noun <b>bruised</b> adj	injured body tissue that is visible underneath the skin	The woman was badly bruised when she came into the emergency room.
<b>cast</b> noun	a hard bandage that is wrapped around a broken bone to keep it in place	My leg was in a cast for graduation.
<b>coroner</b> noun	a person who determines the cause of death after a person dies	We only call the coroner if we think a death is suspicious.
<b>critical condition</b> noun	requiring immediate and constant medical attention	You can't see her right now; she's in critical condition.
<b>crutches</b> noun	objects that people with injured legs or feet use to help them walk	I'd rather hop on one foot than use crutches.

<b>cyst</b> noun	a sac in the body-tissue filled with fluid (sometimes diseased)	We're going to remove the cysts just to be on the safe side.
<b>deficiency</b> noun	a lack of something necessary for one's health	The tests show that you have an iron deficiency.
<b>dehydrated</b> adj	in need of water	It is easy for the elderly to become dehydrated in this heat.
<b>diagnosis</b> noun	medical explanation of an illness or condition	The doctor would prefer to share the diagnosis with the patient himself.

<b>dislocated</b> adj	when a bone is temporarily separated from its joint	You will have to wear a sling because of your dislocated shoulder.
<b>ER (emergency room)</b> noun	the hospital room used for treating patients with immediate and life-threatening injuries	The child was rushed into the ER after he had a severe allergic reaction to a bee sting.
<b>external</b> adj	on the outside	This cream is for external use only. Do not get it near your ears, eyes, or mouth.
<b>fatal</b> adj	causing death	The doctor made a fatal error when he wrote the wrong prescription.

fracture noun fractured adj	broken or cracked bone	Your wrist is fractured and needs a cast.
genetic adj	a medical condition or physical feature that is passed on in the family	The disease is part genetic and part environmental.
incision noun	cut in the body made during surgery	I had to have stitches to close the incision.
infection noun infected adj	diseased area of the body (viral or bacterial)	The wound should be covered when you swim to prevent it from becoming infected.
inflamed adj	appearance (red and swollen) of an injured body part	My right ankle was so inflamed it was twice the size of my left one.



<b>injury</b> <b>noun</b>	<b>damage to the body</b>	<b>Her injuries were minor; just a few cuts and bruises.</b>
<b>intensive care unit (ICU)</b> <b>noun</b>	section of the hospital where patients get constant attention and doctors rely on specialized equipment	She will remain in the ICU until she can breathe on her own.
<b>internal</b> <b>adj</b>	under the skin, inside the organs	The doctors will be monitoring her for any internal bleeding.
<b>IV (Intravenous Fluids)</b> <b>noun</b>	a tube that pumps liquids and medication into a patient's body	The toddler was so dehydrated that the doctor decided to get him on an IV.
<b>life support</b> <b><i>noun</i></b>	a machine that keeps patients alive by helping them breathe	The woman has severe brain damage and is currently on life support.

<b>life-threatening</b> adj	when injuries and conditions are extremely serious	The victim was shot in two places but the bullet wounds are not life-threatening.
<b>light-headed</b> adj	feeling of dizziness and being off-balance, caused by lack of oxygen in the brain	If you are feeling light-headed again, lie down and call me.
<b>malignant</b> adj	expected to grow and get much worse (especially related to cancerous cells)	I'm afraid at least one of the tumours is malignant.
<b>numb</b> adj	no feeling in a certain body part	The needle will make your lower body feel numb.
<b>OR (operating room)</b> <i>noun</i>	the place where major surgeries and operations take place	You must wear a face mask and gloves while you are in the OR.
<b>paralyzed</b> adj	unable to move certain areas of the body	We thought her legs were paralyzed for life, but she is learning how to walk.

<b>Prescription</b> noun <b>prescribe</b> verb	the correct amount and type of medication needed to cure an illness or relieve symptoms	You will need to visit your doctor to get another prescription.
<b>routine check-up</b> noun	a doctor's appointment to check a person's general health	I'd like to see you a year from now for a routine check-up.
<b>sore</b> adj	Painful	I have a sore throat and a runny nose.
<b>spasm</b> noun	the uncontrollable tightening of a muscle	Ever since I injured my leg I've been having muscle spasms in my upper thigh.
<b>sprain</b> noun/verb	an injury (less serious than a break) to a joint (ankle, wrist, knee etc)	I sprained my knee playing soccer.

stable condition noun	a patient is stable if their medical condition is no longer changing rapidly	You can see your husband now; he is in a stable condition.
sting noun/verb	sharp, temporary pain	It may sting when I insert the needle.
stress noun stressed adj	worry that causes muscles to tighten and blood pressure to rise	You need to take some time off work and relieve some of your stress.
Swelling noun swollen adj	ligaments (parts that hold the joints together) growing bigger and rounder after an injury to a joint	I knew my ankle was sprained because it was so swollen.
symptoms noun	pain or physical changes that occur because of an illness or disease	You have all of the symptoms of a diabetic.

<b>tender</b> adj	<b>painful when touched or used</b>	<b>The incision was tender after the surgery.</b>
<b>therapy</b> noun	treatment aimed at improving a person's mental or physical condition	I was able to go back to work a few weeks after starting the therapy.
<b>transplant</b> noun	moving of an organ from one human to another	The heart transplant saved your life.
<b>unconscious</b> adj	alive, but appearing to be asleep and unaware of the surroundings	I hit my head on the steering wheel and was still unconscious when the ambulance arrived.

**wheelchair**  
**noun**

a chair on wheels used for  
transporting patients  
from place to place

If you get in  
the wheelchair I'll take  
you down to see the  
garden.

**wound noun**  
**wounded adj**

injury to body ("flesh  
wound" means not deep)

The wounded soldiers  
are being airlifted to the  
hospital.