

Lesson 18

Medical Terms

All the words in this lesson are used in the field of medicine.

- anesthetic** N. a substance that causes a loss of sensation, especially of pain (The *anesthetic* will not make you totally unconscious, but it will deaden pain.)
- analgesic** ADJ. tending to dull or eliminate pain (Most people take aspirin for its *analgesic* effects.)
- anemia** N. a deficiency in the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood, often causing tiredness (The doctor said my tiredness was caused by *anemia*.)
- atrophy** V. to shrink or waste away, especially tissue or an organ (The doctor warned that her calf muscle would *atrophy* during its six weeks in a cast.)
- cadaver** N. a dead body; a corpse (The coroner found no evidence of foul play during his examination of the *cadaver*.)
- chiropodist** N. a specialist who treats disorders of the feet (Bunions and corns are common conditions treated by a *chiropodist*.)
- comatose** ADJ. suffering from unconsciousness as a result of injury or disease (Aunt Martha lingered in a *comatose* state for weeks before she recovered.)
- communicable** ADJ. able to be passed by contact (You can catch some *communicable* diseases from shaking hands with someone who is infected.)
- cyst** N. an abnormal pocket or sac developing in the body (I went to the doctor to have a *cyst* removed from my hand.)
- dermatologist** N. a doctor who treats disorders of the skin (The *dermatologist* gave me a prescription for my acne.)
- equilibrium** N. a dynamic balance in which the movement or change in one direction is equal to the movement or change in the other (A person's sense of *equilibrium* is controlled by fluid in the inner ear.)
- infectious** ADJ. capable of being spread rapidly to others (Chicken pox is an *infectious* disease that can quickly spread through elementary schools.)
- infirmity** N. an overall weakness or feebleness of mind or body (During her husband's *infirmity*, Woodrow Wilson's wife took over many of his responsibilities.)
- metabolism** N. the process by which an organism turns food into energy and waste products (Each human body has its own rate of *metabolism*.)
- phobia** N. an obsessive and unreasonable fear (A person who suffers from a severe *phobia* may have difficulty functioning normally in society.)
- physiological** ADJ. relating to the healthy and normal functioning of an organism (Cindy undertook a *physiological* study of the digestive system of infants.)
- quarantine** N. isolation for the purpose of preventing the spread of a contagious disease (Scarlet fever victims used to be placed under *quarantine* for weeks.)
- sever** V. to remove by cutting; to become separated (The surgeon will *sever* the artery, repair it, and then stitch it together.)
- suture** V. to join together with stitches (When Dan received a nasty gash playing soccer, his doctor had to *suture* it.)
- vertebrate** N. any animal with a backbone or spinal column (Humans are one type of *vertebrate*.)