

GENERAL ENGLISH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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FOREWORD

All praise be to Allah SWT, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, for His endless blessings and guidance that have enabled us to complete this book titled *General English for Public Health*. This book is designed to support health and medical students in mastering fundamental English skills relevant to their field of study. By integrating practical language exercises and context-based examples, the book aims to provide learners with the essential communication tools needed in both academic and professional healthcare settings.

Structured into 18 comprehensive chapters, this book covers a wide range of topics, including basic medical terminology, effective greetings, self-introduction techniques, grammatical components, and essential communication strategies such as asking for help, expressing opinions, and making complaints. We hope this book serves as a valuable resource for students to enhance their linguistic proficiency and contribute to their success in the global healthcare community.

Jakarta, January 2025

Author

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH / MEDICAL ENGLISH

By Kusmayra Ambarwati

Preface

1.1 Introduction Medical Terminology

Learning medical language may appear complex to a layperson, but it becomes easier once one understands the origins and meanings of medical jargon. It comes naturally to healthcare workers. The majority of medical terminology are derived from Latin and Greek, but learning these languages is not required to become an expert in their use and understanding. All you need to do is study and learn the word parts. (Nijris 2022)

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1.2 Definition

Is a science concerned with the right use of medical terminology. It accurately describes the human body and its associated components, processes, circumstances, and procedures in a science-based way.

1.3 Simplified Medical English

The word root, or basic body of a word, serves as the foundation for the majority of medical terminology. Sometimes a medical term is made up of compound terms. A

compound word can have two word roots, such as collarbone (collar + bone). A combining vowel is put between word roots to help people pronounce them better. A large number of medical phrases include the vowel "o". However, it's worth noting that "o" isn't the only vowel.

The following table shows examples of root words and combining forms.

Table 1. Root word and Combining from.

Word Root	Combining Vowel		Combining Form	Meaning	Use in a word
acr	+	O	Acr/o	extremity	acrocyanosis
psych	+	O	Psych/o	Mind	psychology
chol	+	e	Chol/e	Bile	cholesterase

1.4 Vocabulary Preview

- a) **Introduction:** The beginning section of a document that outlines the purpose and scope of the work.
- b) **Health Provider:** A professional who delivers health-related services, such as nurses, midwives, doctors, and public health officials.
- c) **Context:** The circumstances or setting in which a particular subject is relevant.
- d) **Audience:** The group of people for whom the document is intended.