**101 English Medical Words to Learn**

| **Word** | **Meaning** | **Example** |
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| Abnormal | to be not normal | Her heart rate was abnormal. It had an inconsistent rhythm. |
| Ache | consistent pain or discomfort, often dull | I had a backache all day after lifting those boxes |
| Allergies | a hypersensitive immune response to a foreign substance, usually food, dust or plants | My son has a severe allergy to peanuts, so he can't eat peanut butter. |
| Ambulance | an emergency vehicle that takes you to the hospital | The ambulance had its sirens on, so we knew to pull over to let it go by. |
| Amnesia | a condition that results in the loss of memory | The woman suffered amnesia from her fall, and couldn't remember her accident. |
| Amputate | permanent removal of a limb | The doctor had to amputate his toes after he suffered from frostbite. |
| Anemic (US)/Anaemic (UK) | to have a low red blood cell count | I need to take iron supplements because I am anemic. |
| Antibiotics | medication that kills bacteria and fights infections | I will have to take antibiotics to fight the infection in my cut. |
| Anti-depressants | medicine that alleviate clinical depression | After she was diagnosed with clinical depression, she began taking anti-depressants to feel better. |
| Appointment | an arranged time to meet with a medical professional | I'd like to schedule an appointment with a specialist soon. |
| Asthma | a chronic condition that affects the airways in the lungs and makes it difficult to breathe | They carry an inhaler when they run because of their asthma. |
| Bacteria | small unicellular micro-organisms. Some types can cause infections | Washing your hands prevents the spread of bacteria. |
| Benign | non-harmful or not dangerous, not cancerous | The tumor is benign, so it may grow larger but won't spread to other parts of the body |
| Biopsy | examination of human tissue to determine a diagnosis | The doctor recommended a mole biopsy to check that it isn't cancerous. |
| Bite | a wound resulting from a human or animal's teeth | Insect bites usually itch, so it's good to put some cream on it. |
| Blood count | The amount and type of blood cells in your body | The physical includes a blood count test to look for immune disorders. |
| Blood donor | someone who gives blood for hospitals or clinics, so that patients who suffer from blood less can receive blood transfusions. | I donate blood every year. |
| Blood pressure | the pressure of blood in the circulatory system | First, we'll take your blood pressure to make sure it isn't too high. High blood pressure can put you at risk of a heart attack. |
| Brace | a medical device that protects and holds an injured body part in place | Wearing a knee brace will help your knee while you walk. |
| Broken | a bone that has split into two or more parts due to an injury | She broke her arm after falling from the tree. |
| Bruise or bruised | a discolored, sensitive spot on the skin after a blow or impact, causing injury to the tissue and blood vessels. | Ow! I hit my shin on the coffee table again! That will leave a bruise. |
| Bump or lump | a swelling or hard round spot on or under the skin | She went to see the doctor after finding a lump during a self-breast exam. |
| Caesarean section (C-Section) | an operation to remove a baby from its mother's uterus | The baby was too big so the doctor decided to deliver it through C-Section. |
| Cancer | a disease caused by uncontrolled reproduction of abnormal cells in the body | It's important to wear sunscreen to lower your risk of skin cancer. |
| CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) | a life-saving technique to manually provide air flow with hard and fast chest compressions after someone's breathing or heart has stopped | He took a CPR course before he became a babysitter. |
| Cast | a hard shell made of bandages and plaster, worn around a broken body part to keep it in place and promote healing | She'll need to wear a cast for six to eight weeks while her leg heals. |
| Chaplain | a priest or religious person who visits patients in a hospital | The chaplain came by to pray with us. |
| Chemotherapy | a type of treatment used to eliminate cancer. | This is my first round of chemotherapy. |
| Clinic | a department or smaller establishments for medical treatment | You should go to the walk-in clinic for your cough. |
| Concussion | temporary unconsciousness or confusion resulting from trauma to the head. | He suffered from a concussion after he fell, so he should stay awake while we monitor him. |
| Coroner | a person who determines the cause of death after a person dies | They called the coroner because they though the death was suspicious. |
| Critical Condition | a severe health state which requires immediate medical attention | My teacher was in critical condition after their car accident. |
| Crutches | devices to help a person with injured legs or feet walk | I had to use crutches after I sprained my ankle. |
| Cyst | a fluid-filled sac in the body tissue, sometimes infected | The doctor can remove the cyst safely. |
| Deaf | a person who can not hear | My mother is Deaf, so she requires an ASL interpreter for this appointment. |
| Deficiency | a lack of something necessary for one's health, such as vitamins | You have a Vitamin D deficiency, so you should get some sun or take supplements. |
| Dehydrated | someone who is not hydrated, who needs more water. | Bring water for your hike so you don't get dehydrated. |
| Dementia | a condition which results in the loss of memory or mental capacity | My uncle suffers from dementia, which is difficult for our family. |
| Diabetes | type of disease in which the body can't produce or respond to insulin | My sister was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was young. |
| Diagnosis | identifying a disease, condition or injury | We'll need a blood test to make a diagnosis. |
| Discomfort | unease or pain in a part of the body | I feel discomfort in my stomach after eating greasy food. |
| Disease | a harmful condition that creates symptoms or affects a part of the body | Chickenpox is a disease found in children. |
| Dislocated | a condition in which a body part is out of place | I did physical therapy after I dislocated my shoulder. |
| Drowsy | sleepiness or fatigue | This medication might cause drowsiness so you shouldn't operate heavy machinery. |
| Emergency room (ER) | The room or department in a hospital for patients requiring serious or immediate medical care | The nurse works in the ER. She's seen many grievous injuries. |
| External | outside the body or a body part | The external damage wasn't as bad as the internal damage. |
| False negative | a test result that wrongly shows a negative result | Her first COVID test results was a false negative. When she took a second test, it was positive. |
| Family history | common or inherited conditions or traits in the medical history of your family | Do you have a family history of high cholesterol? |
| Fatal | a condition that results in death | The blunt force trauma to his chest was fatal. |
| Fever | an abnormally high body temperature | Please call your health care provider if you have a fever over 103F (39.4C). |
| First responder | a person such as an EMT or fire fighter who arrives immediately to the scene of an accident or emergency | The first responders came quickly to help the victims. |
| Flu (influenza) | an infectious disease similar to a very bad cold | Remember to get your flu vaccine this year. |
| Fracture | a partial or complete crack or break in a bone. | She had a fracture in her left leg. |
| Germ | a microorganism that can cause disease | Hand sanitizer will kill 99% of germs. |
| Genetic (hereditary) | related to genes, something inherited or passed down from parents to offspring. | Cystic fibrosis is a fatal hereditary disease. |
| Growth | increase in size, or a mass of tissue somewhere in or on the body | The growth in his throat could be dangerous. |
| Heart attack | when the flow of oxygen rich blood in an artery becomes blocked, and the heart can't get enough oxygen | Heart attacks can be fatal, so it's important to know the early signs and call 911. |
| HIV | a virus that attacks the body's immune system, and can lead to AIDS if not treated | HIV attacks the white blood cells in your body. |
| Hives | a rash of red welts, sometimes with swelling, caused by an allergic reaction | I broke out in hives after I ate the shrimp. |
| Hospital | a medical center, usually with multiple departments | I work in the hospital as a nurse. |
| Illness | a disorder or disease affecting the body or mind | My grandmother's illness left her weak and unable to eat solid foods. |
| Immune system | the complex network in your body, including white blood cells, that fights infections and other diseases | Vitamin C can help strengthen your immune system so you don't get sick. |
| Immunization | vaccines or inoculations that can help protect your body from certain diseases | You'll need to provide an immunization record before you can enroll in classes. |
| Insurance (health or medical) | an agreement or arrangement with a company or government to provide financial compensation in the event of illness, disease, or death in return for a regular payment (usually monthly or yearly) | This procedure is free under your health insurance. |
| Insurance provider | the company that provides your health insurance | Who is your insurance provider? |
| Incision | a cut into body tissue | The incision was small. |
| Inconclusive | test results that do not give a clear indication one way or another. | The study was inconclusive, so some doctors still have doubts about the medication's effectiveness. |
| Infant | a baby that is three months old or younger | Infants need constant attention and care. |
| Infection | the invasion of germs in the body, resulting in harmful symptoms | Please keep your cut clean to prevent infection. |
| Injury | damage to the body | Her arm was injured and required surgery. |
| Intensive Care Unit (ICU) | the department of a medical center or hospital for patients who need immediate and consistent care | We're transferring her to the ICU. |
| Internal | under the skin, inside the body | The doctors will monitor her for any internal bleeding. |
| Itchy | discomfort and inflammation on the skin | Bug bites can result in itching. |
| IV (intravenous therapy) | a thing tube that transfers liquids and medications into a patient's body | He couldn't drink enough water on his own, so the doctors put in an IV so he wouldn't be so dehydrated. |
| Laboratory (lab) | a scientific or medical center that takes samples and examines them | Please send these blood samples to the lab. |
| Lab results | test results that come back fro ma laboratory and help the doctors make a diagnosis | The lab results have come back, and it's good news! |
| Life support | machines that help keep patients alive, usually by helping them breathe | She's in the ICU on life support because she can't breathe on her own. |
| Light-headed | feeling dizzy or faint | After all day in the hot sun, she felt light-headed and needed to sit down. |
| Malignant | a dangerous or aggressive growth, usually associated with cancer | The tumor was malignant, meaning it would spread to his lungs. |
| Medical school | the school or place you train to be a doctor | Medical school takes a lot time. |
| Newborn | a baby that is less than three months old | The neonatal department looks after newborns. |
| Numb | loss of feeling or sensation in a body part | The cold air made her fingers go numb. |
| Nurse | a licensed medical practitioner who cares for the sick, often in association with a surgeon or physician | She wants to be a nurse one day to help those who need it most. |
| Operating room (OR) | the room or department where major surgeries and operations take place | You cannot go into the OR without a mask and gloves. |
| Operation | a medical procedure that involves creating an incision to go inside a person's body to fix or remove a problem. | The operation took over eight hours. |
| Over-the-counter | medicine that does not require a prescription from a doctor | Minor pain relievers, such as ibuprofen, is over-the-counter. |
| Pain killer/pain reliever | medicine the relieves or eliminates pain or discomfort from an injury or illness | She she will need pain killers after the orthodontist takes her wisdom teeth out. |
| Pandemic | a widespread outbreak of a disease or virus over multiple continents, as classified by the WHO (World Health Organization) | The outbreak of COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the WHO on March 11. |
| Paralyzed | unable to move areas of the body | His legs are paralyzed, so he uses a wheelchair. |
| Patient | a person is seeking medical care, often staying in a hospital or medical facility | The patients are sleeping in their rooms. |
| Pharmacy/Drugstore | a store where people buy medication | Pharmacies sell bandages, too. |
| Pharmacist | a licensed professional who fills a doctor's prescription and offers advice about medication | The pharmacist explained the medication, including how often to take it. |
| Pills | medication that comes in the forms of capsules | Her medicine comes in a pill bottle, and she takes two pills a day. |
| Poison/poisonous | a dangerous substance | Call the Poison Control line if your child swallows something they shouldn't. |
| Prenatal | a state of time before a person gives birth | Take these prenatal vitamins so you aren't deficient in anything before giving birth. |
| Prescription (Rx) | a type and dosage of medication used to cure or treat an illness or symptoms. Ordered by doctor, and usually not available over-the-counter | Only the doctor can prescribe this medication. |
| Routine check-up | a standard procedure to check that the body is healthy | I'm just here for a routine check-up before I travel. |
| Scrubs | a uniform that medical practitioners wear | Put on your scrubs before you head to the OR. |
| Second opinion | advice or a diagnosis from a second medical practitioner about an illness or symptom | I went to another doctor for a second opinion. |
| Seizure | uncontrollable, sudden violent movements or unconsciousness | He was diagnosed with epilepsy after his seizure. |
| Sensitive | an area or spot on the body has heightened feeling or discomfort | The spot where I hit my head was a bit sensitive the next day |
| Shock | a medical condition where a patient experiences a fall in blood pressure and other symptoms, caused by blood loss, burns, or sudden emotional stress | She experienced shock after the accident. |
| Side effects | secondary symptoms caused by an illness, condition, or medication that can be undesirable | Common side effects of this medication include weight gain and headaches. |
| Sore | pain, discomfort or exhaustion in the muscles | I am so sore after that run yesterday. |
| Spasm | an uncontrollable twitch or movement in a muscle | His leg muscle was spasming after he worked it too much. |
| Specialist | a medical practitioner who specializes in a specific field or area of the body | I want to see a specialist about this issue. |
| Sprain | an injury to a ligament, resulting in pain and swelling but not dislocation | I sprained my ankle during the football game. |
| Stable condition | a state in which the patient is in consistent health and has good vital signs | He's in stable condition, so he'll be moved from the ICU to the regular wards. |
| Swelling/swollen | a growth or enlargement of an area of the body, caused by inflammation or trauma | After I twisted my ankle, it was swollen to twice its normal size. I put ice on it to reduce the swelling. |
| Symptoms | how a condition or illness manifests, the signs of a condition, usually uncomfortable or painful | Do you have any other symptoms besides a cough? |
| Temperature | the measurement of how hot something is, including your body in order to check for a fever. | I took his temperature last night. |
| Tender | an area of the body that is sensitive or feels painful | The bruise on my knee was tender. |
| Test results | the report that comes back from a lab after examination | We finally have your test results, so we can discuss them now. |
| Transplant | the transfer of an organ from one body to another | He's on the wait-list for a kidney transplant. |
| Ultrasound | a type of medical scan, usually a test a pregnant person undertakes to examine the fetus | Here are the pictures from my ultrasound! |
| Unconscious | a person who is not conscious, or who can not wake up or respond to their environment | He went unconscious after he lost so much blood. |
| Urine sample | a test of someone's urine to check for diseases or drugs | Please give your urine sample to the nurse so we can send it to the lab for testing. |
| Virus | an infectious microbe that requires a host to make copies of its cells | COVID-19 is a virus that spreads from one person to another. |
| Visiting hours | the time period in which a hospital lets you visit a patient | Our visiting hours are from 8am to 10pm. |
| Vomit | the act of ejecting contents from your stomach, or the matter that is ejected from your stomach | She vomited after she got food poisoning from that undercooked chicken. |
| Wheelchair | a device or chair with wheels that allows someone who is unable or has difficulty walking to move freely or be transported. | She's been using a wheelchair for almost a decade now. |
| Wound/wounded | an injured or hurt part of the body | He was wounded in battle but recovered quickly. |
| X-ray | a medical scan that examines the internal parts of a body, such as bones | We'll know if it's broken or not once we take an X-ray. |