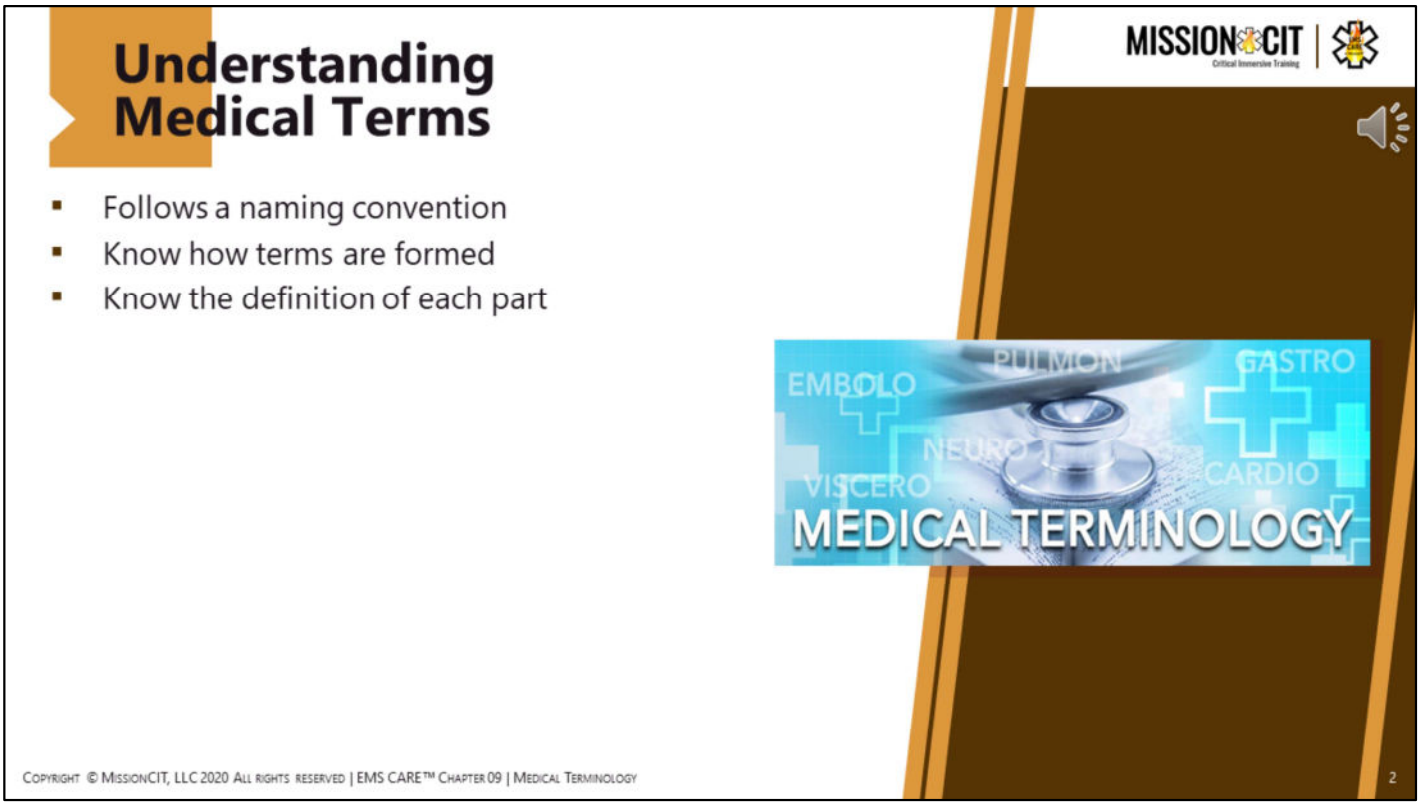


Thank you, Missah. It's time to review these three lessons before you move on to the quiz. Remember, the purpose of medical terminology is to create a standardized language for medical professionals. This language will help you communicate more efficiently and makes documentation easier.

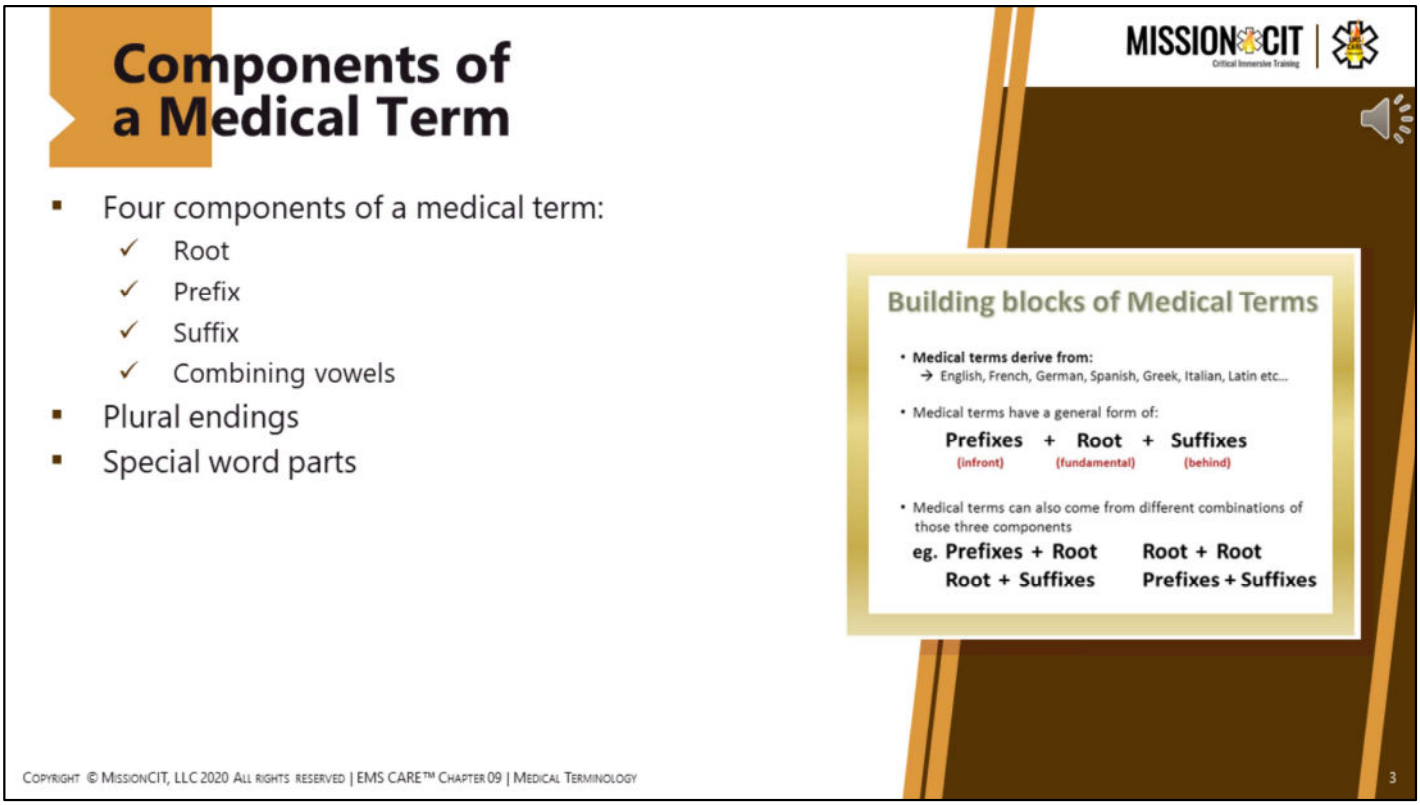


Every medical term has a certain naming convention, and you can easily identify what each term means by understanding this pattern.

You can understand the meaning of a new medical term by,

- Knowing how the terms are formed
- Knowing the definition of each part of a term

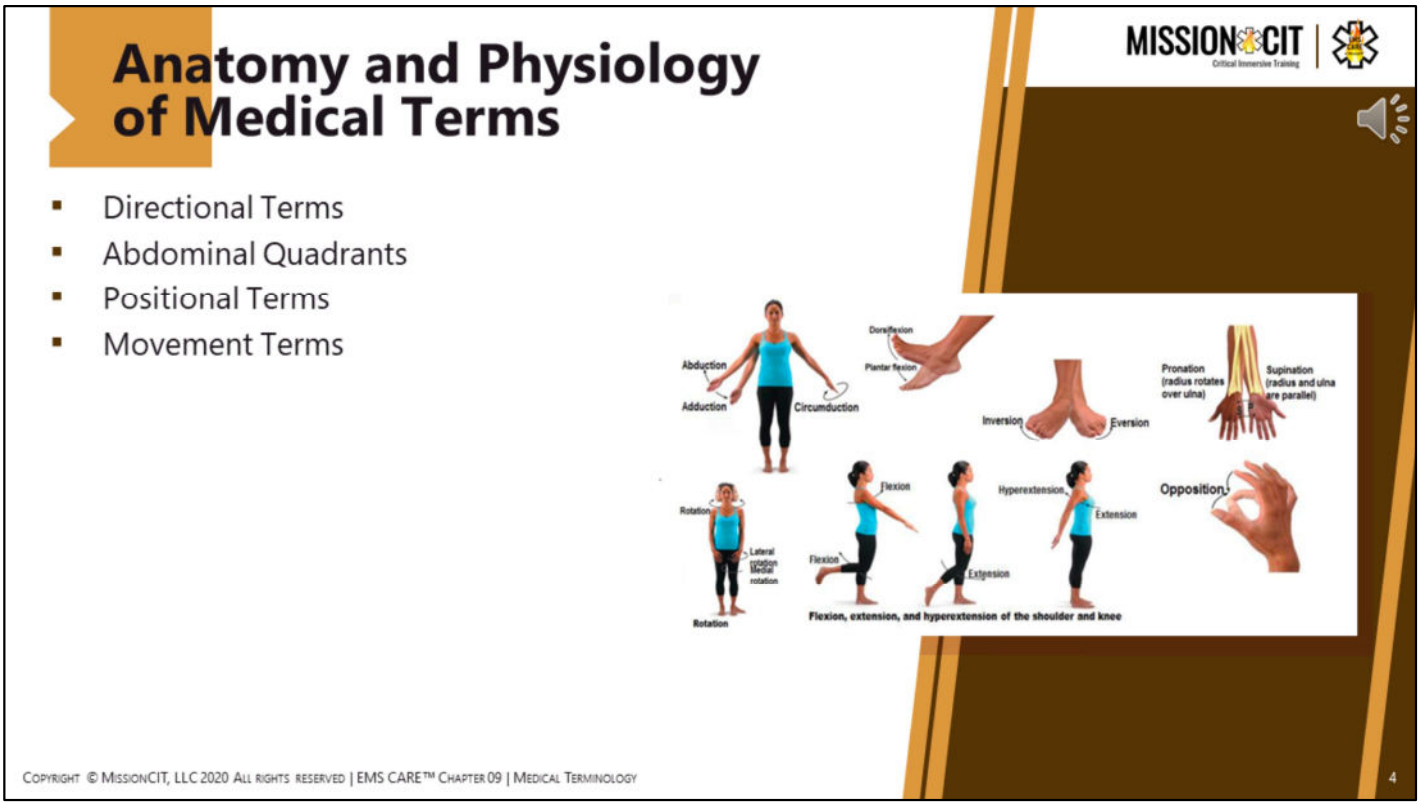
You must use these terms when communicating with other healthcare providers to give them a clear understanding of the patient's condition. But never use these terms while talking to a patient, family members, or bystanders.



Components that comprise medical terms include the:

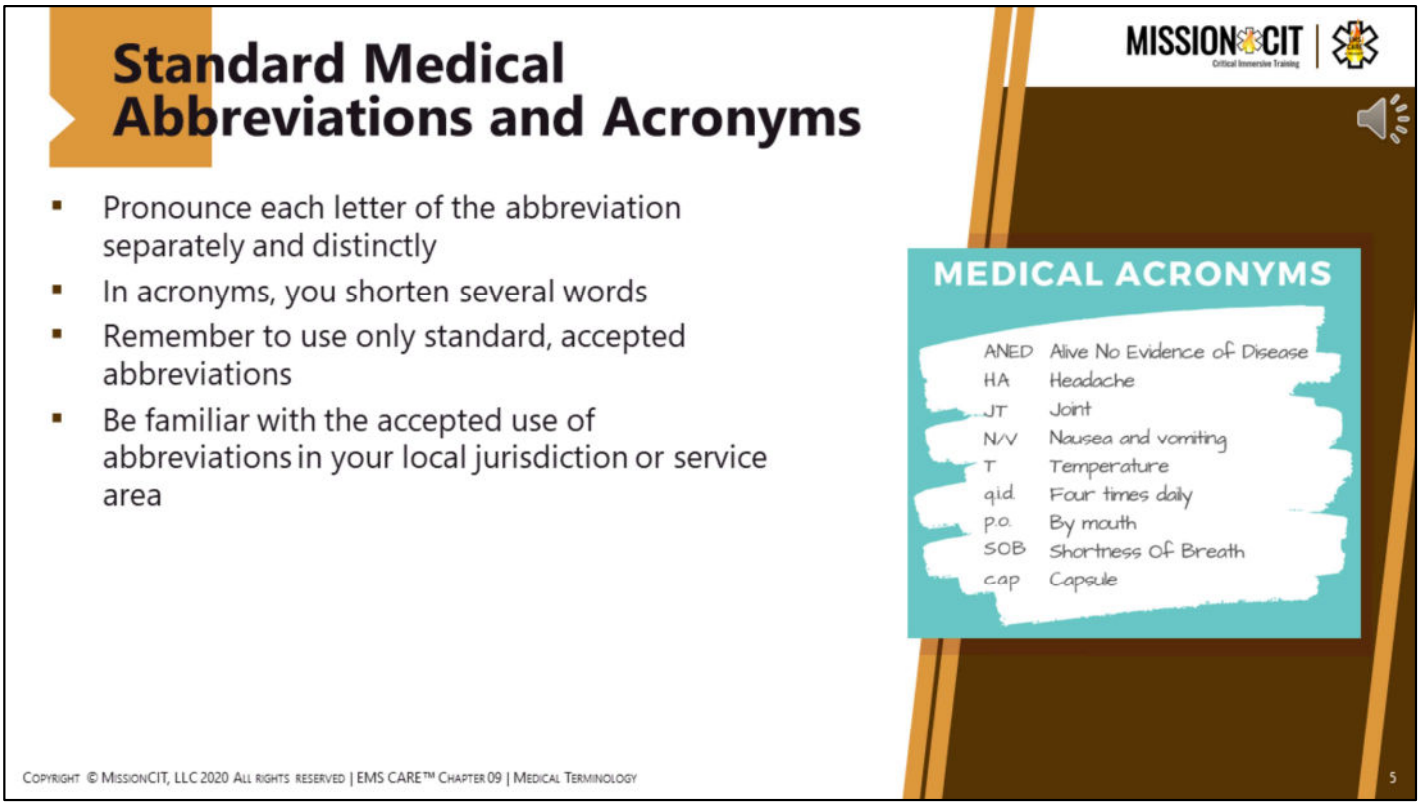
- Word root: The main part or stem of a word is called a word root or root word. It conveys the essential meaning of the word and more often than not, indicates a body part.
- Prefix: Prefixes describe the location or Intensity of the root word and give specific meaning to the root.
- Suffix: Suffixes indicate a Procedure, Condition, Disease, or Part of speech.
- Combining vowels: A combining vowel is the part of a term that connects a word root to a suffix or other word root. It helps ease the pronunciation of the term.

Specific word-building rules must be followed while adding these roots, prefixes, suffixes, and vowels. We also discussed plural endings and the rules followed to create them. Besides what we discussed, some special word parts that give specific meaning to a term. Prefixes can be used to indicate numbers, colors, position, directions.



All medical terms are broadly divided into two categories, namely, anatomy and physiology. While anatomy describes the body structure, physiology is all about the body's functions. In the medical world, anatomical positions are described as a directional phrase. The common directional terms are Superior and inferior, Proximal and distal, Superficial and deep, Ventral and dorsal, Palmar and Plantar, Bilateral and unilateral, and Mid-clavicular line.

Abdominal quadrants are the horizontal and vertical lines that divide an abdomen into four parts. The four quadrants are: Right Upper Quadrant, Left Upper Quadrant, Right Lower Quadrant, and Left Lower Quadrant. Moving on, let's see how the position of something is described. Two frequent terms used in this context are supine and fowler. The last one is movement terms, the four common terms are: Flexion, Extension, Adduction, and Abduction.



Lastly, let's talk about some medical abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols. These are are a type of shorthand used for communication and they were developed because one could communicate faster using this method. Some rules to follow in this context are:

- When you use an abbreviation, you pronounce each letter of the abbreviation separately and distinctly.
- When you use an acronym, you are shortening several words.
- Make sure you know the full word for each acronym.
- Remember to use only standard, accepted abbreviations to avoid confusion and errors.
- Be familiar with the accepted use of abbreviations in your local jurisdiction or service area.

That's it! We've come to the end of the chapter review. With this, you are all set to take the quiz.