

Terminology in Health Care and Public Health Settings

Unit 1c Understanding Medical Words

Component 3/Unit 1c

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Describing the Body – Cell Types

- Connective tissue – bones, ligaments, tendons
- Epithelial tissue – covers body surfaces, inside and outside
- Muscle tissue – moves the body
- Nervous tissue – carries messages from brain and spinal column

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Describing the Body – Systems

- Integumentary system = skin, hair, nails, sweat and oil glands
- Musculoskeletal system – muscles, bones, cartilage
- Cardiovascular system = heart and blood vessels

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Describing the Body – Systems

- Respiratory system = lungs and airways
- Nervous system = brain, spinal cord, nerves
- Urinary system = kidneys, ureters, bladder, urethra

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Describing the Body – Systems

- Female reproductive system = ovaries, vagina, fallopian tubes, uterus, mammary glands
- Male reproductive system; testes, penis, prostate gland, vas deferens, seminal vesicles

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Describing the Body – Systems

- Blood system = blood and all components
- Lymphatic & immune system = lymph, lymph glands, lymphatic vessels
- Digestive system = all organs of digestion and excretion
- Endocrine system = hormone glands

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Describing the Body – Systems

- Sensory system = eyes, ears, all body parts related to the five senses
 - Seeing
 - Smelling
 - Hearing
 - Tasting
 - Feeling

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Body Cavities

- Cranial – contains brain
- Spinal – contains spinal cord
- Thoracic – contains heart, lungs, and associated structures
- Abdominopelvic – contains digestive, excretory, reproductive organs and structures

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Directional Terms

- Anterior or ventral = front
- Posterior or dorsal = back
- Inferior = below
- Superior = above
- Lateral = side
- Medial = middle

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Directional Terms

- Proximal = near trunk or point of attachment
- Distal = away from trunk or point of attachment
- Supine = lying on spine face upward
- Prone = lying on stomach with face down

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Tell me, Detective . . .

- A dead body is discovered lying in the prone position in an alleyway. Which of the following observations can you make without moving the body?
- Puncture wound below the navel.
- Laceration in the pectoral region.
- Crush injury to sternum.
- Gunshot wound to right buttock.



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