

second edition

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DICTIONARY OF **NURSING**

second edition

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Joel Adams, Sandra Anderson, Heather Bateman, Emma Djonokusumo,
Ruth Hillmore, Daisy Jackson, Irene Lakhani, Sarah Lusznat,
Katy McAdam, Howard Sargeant

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Preface

This fully-updated dictionary provides the user with a complete guide to the vocabulary in current use by nurses and other health care professionals.

Over 11,000 terms are explained in clear, straightforward English. Areas covered include diseases and conditions, instruments, drugs, treatments and patient care, as well as medical specialisations such as surgery, psychiatry and physiotherapy. Many informal and everyday terms used by patients in describing their condition are also included.

A useful supplement also contains a guide to anatomical terms, illustrated with clear and simple diagrams.

Thanks are due to Glenda Cornwell, Rosemary Cook, Stephen Curtis, Fiona McIntosh, Lynn Davy and Dinah Jackson for their advice on the first edition of this text, and to Kathryn Jones for her helpful comments during the production of this second edition.

Publishers' Note:

While every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible, the author, advisors, editors and publishers of this book cannot be held liable for any errors and omissions, or actions that may be taken as a consequence of using it.

Pronunciation

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress is indicated by a main stress mark (') and a secondary stress mark (,).

Note that these are only guides, as the stress of the word changes according to its position in the sentence.

Vowels

æ	back
ɑ:	harm
ɒ	stop
aɪ	type
aʊ	how
aɪə	hire
aʊə	hour
ɔ:	course
ɔɪ	annoy
e	head
eə	fair
eɪ	make
eʊ	go
ɜ:	word
i:	keep
i	happy
ə	about
ɪ	fit
ɪə	near
u	annual
u:	pool
ʊ	book
ʊə	tour
ʌ	shut

Consonants

b	buck
d	dead
ð	other
dʒ	jump
f	fare
g	gold
h	head
j	yellow
k	cab
l	leave
m	mix
n	nil
ŋ	sing
p	print
r	rest
s	save
ʃ	shop
t	take
tʃ	change
θ	theft
v	value
w	work
x	loch
ʒ	measure
z	zone

A

AA *abbreviation* Alcoholics Anonymous

A & E /,eɪ ənd 'i:/, **A & E department** /,eɪ ənd 'i: dɪpɑ:t'mənt/ *noun* same as **accident and emergency department**

A & E medicine /,eɪ ənd 'i: ,med(ə)sɪn/ *noun* the medical procedures used in A & E departments

ab- /æb/ *prefix* away from

ABC /,eɪ bi: 'si:/ *noun* the basic initial checks of a casualty's condition. Full form **airway, breathing and circulation**

abdomen /'æbdəmən/ *noun* a space inside the body below the diaphragm, above the pelvis and in front of the spine, containing the stomach, intestines, liver and other vital organs ○ *pain in the abdomen* (NOTE: For other terms referring to the abdomen, see words beginning with **coeli-**, **coelio-**.)

abdomin- /æbdəmɪn/ *prefix* same as **abdomino-** (*used before vowels*)

abdominal /æb'dəmɪn(ə)l/ *adjective* located in the abdomen, or relating to the abdomen

abdominal aorta /æb'dəmɪn(ə)l eɪ'ɔ:tə/ *noun* the part of the aorta which lies between the diaphragm and the point where the aorta divides into the iliac arteries. See illustration at **KIDNEY** in Supplement

abdominal cavity /æb'dəmɪn(ə)l 'kævɪti/ *noun* the space in the body below the chest

abdominal pain /æb'dəmɪn(ə)l peɪn/ *noun* pain in the abdomen caused by indigestion or more serious disorders

abdominal viscera /æb'dəmɪn(ə)l 'vɪsərə/ *plural noun* the organs which are contained in the abdomen, e.g. the stomach, liver and intestines

abdominal wall /æb'dəmɪn(ə)l wɔ:l/ *noun* muscular tissue which surrounds the abdomen

abdomino- /æbdəmɪnəʊ/ *prefix* referring to the abdomen

abdominopelvic /æb'dəmɪnəʊ'pelvɪk/ *adjective* referring to the abdomen and pelvis

abdominoperineal /æb'dəmɪnəʊpəri'ni:əl/ *adjective* referring to the abdomen and perineum

abdominoperineal excision /æb'dəmɪnəʊpəri'ni:əl ɪk'sɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a surgical

operation that involves cutting out tissue in both the abdomen and the perineum

abdominoposterior /æb'dəmɪnəʊpɪə'striəriə/ *adjective* referring to a position of a fetus in the uterus, where the fetus's abdomen is facing the mother's back

abdominoscopy /æb'dəmɪ'nɒskəpi/ *noun* an internal examination of the abdomen, usually with an endoscope

abdominothoracic /æb'dəmɪnəʊθɔ:'ræsɪk/ *adjective* referring to the abdomen and thorax

abduce /æb'dju:s/ *verb* same as **abduct**

abducens nerve /æb'dju:s(ə)nɪz ,nɜ:z/ *noun* the sixth cranial nerve, which controls the muscle which makes the eyeball turn outwards

abducent /æb'dju:s(ə)nt/ *adjective* referring to a muscle which brings parts of the body away from each other or moves them away from the central line of the body or a limb. Compare **adducent**

abduct /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* (*of a muscle*) to pull a leg or arm in a direction which is away from the centre line of the body, or to pull a toe or finger away from the central line of a leg or arm. Compare **adduct**

abduction /æb'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the movement of a part of the body away from the centre line of the body or away from a neighbouring part. Opposite **adduction**. See illustration at **ANATOMICAL TERMS** in Supplement

abductor /æb'dʌktə/, **abductor muscle** /æb'dʌktə ,mʌs(ə)l/ *noun* a muscle which pulls a part of the body away from the centre line of the body or away from a neighbouring part. Opposite **adductor**

aberrant /æ'berənt/ *adjective* not usual or expected

aberration /æbə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an action or growth which is not usual or expected

ablation /ə'bleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the removal of an organ or of a part of the body by surgery

abnormal /æb'nɔ:m(ə)l/ *adjective* not usual ○ *abnormal behaviour* ○ *an abnormal movement*

abnormality /æbnɔ:'mælɪti/ *noun* a form or condition which is not usual (NOTE: For other

terms referring to abnormality, see words beginning with **terat-**, **terato-**.)

abocclusion /ə'bɒŋ'klu:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a condition in which the teeth in the top and bottom jaws do not touch

abort /ə'bɔ:t/ *verb* to eject an embryo or fetus, or to cause an embryo or fetus to be ejected, and so end a pregnancy before the fetus is fully developed

abortifacient /ə'bɔ:tɪ'feɪʃ(ə)nt/ *noun* a drug or instrument which provokes an abortion

abortion /ə'bɔ:tʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a situation where a fetus leaves the uterus before it is fully developed, especially during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy, or a procedure which causes this to happen

abortive /ə'bɔ:tɪv/ *adjective* not successful ○ *an abortive attempt*

abortion /ə'bɔ:təs/ *noun* a fetus which is expelled during an abortion or miscarriage

abortion fever /ə'bɔ:təs ,fɪ:vəl/ *noun* same as **brucellosis**

ABO system /eɪ bi: 'əʊ ,sɪstəm/ *noun* a system of classifying blood groups. ▽ **blood group**

abrasion /ə'breɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a condition in which the surface of the skin has been rubbed off by a rough surface and bleeds

abreaction /æbri'ækʃən/ *noun* the treatment of a person with a neurosis by making him or her think again about past bad experiences

abruptio placentae /ə,bɾəptɪəʊ plə'senti:z/ *noun* an occasion when the placenta suddenly comes away from the uterus earlier than it should, often causing shock and bleeding

abscess /'æbses/ *noun* a painful swollen area where pus forms ○ *She had an abscess under a tooth.* ○ *The doctor decided to lance the abscess.* (NOTE: The formation of an abscess is often accompanied by a high temperature. The plural is **abscesses**.)

absorbable suture /əb,zɔ:bəb(ə)l 'su:tʃəl/ *noun* a suture which will eventually be absorbed into the body, and does not need to be removed

absorbent cotton /əb,zɔ:bənt 'kɒt(ə)n/ *noun* a soft white material used as a dressing to put on wounds

absorption /əb'zɔ:pʃən/ *noun* the process by which a liquid is taken into a solid

abstinence /'æbstɪnəns/ *noun* a deliberate act of not doing something over a period of time, especially not eating or drinking ○ *abstinence from alcohol*

abulia /ə'bu:liə/ *noun* a lack of willpower

abuse *noun* /ə'bju:z/ **1.** the act of using something wrongly ○ *the abuse of a privilege* **2.** the illegal use of a drug or overuse of alcohol ○ *substance abuse* **3.** same as **child abuse **4.** bad treatment of a person ○ *physical abuse* ○ *sexual abuse* ■ *verb* /ə'bju:z/ **1.** to use something**

wrongly ○ *Heroin and cocaine are drugs which are commonly abused.* **2.** to treat someone badly ○ *sexually abused children* ○ *He had physically abused his wife and child.*

a.c. *adverb* (used on prescriptions) before food. Full form **ante cibum**

acanthosis /ə,kæn'thəʊsɪs/ *noun* a disease of the prickle cell layer of the skin, where warts appear on the skin or inside the mouth

acapnia /eɪ'kæpniə/ *noun* the condition of not having enough carbon dioxide in the blood and tissues

acaricide /ə'kærɪsaɪd/ *noun* a substance which kills mites or ticks

acatalasia /eɪ,kætə'leɪziə/ *noun* an inherited condition which results in a lack of catalase in all tissue

accessory /æk'sesəri/ *noun* something which helps something else to happen or operate, but may not be very important in itself ■ *adjective* helping something else to happen or operate

accident /'æksɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* **1.** an unpleasant event which happens suddenly and harms someone's health ○ *She had an accident in the kitchen and had to go to hospital.* ○ *Three people were killed in the accident on the motorway.* **2.** chance, or something which happens by chance ○ *I met her by accident at the bus stop.*

accidental injury /'æksɪd(ə)ntəl 'ɪndʒəri/ *noun* an injury that happens to someone in an accident

accident and emergency department /'æksɪd(ə)nt ənd ɪ'mɜ:dʒənsɪ dɪ,pɑ:t'mənt/ *noun* the part of a hospital which deals with people who need urgent treatment because they have had accidents or are in sudden serious pain. Abbreviation **A & E**

accident form /'æksɪd(ə)nt fɔ:m/, **accident report form** /'æksɪd(ə)nt rɪ'pɔ:t fɔ:m/ *noun* a form to be filled in with details of an accident

accident prevention /'æksɪd(ə)nt prɪ'venʃən/ *noun* the work of taking action or changing procedures to prevent accidents from happening

accident ward /'æksɪd(ə)nt wɔ:d/ *noun* a ward for urgent accident victims. Also called **casualty ward**

accommodation /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃ(ə)n/, **accommodation reflex** /ə,kɒmə'deɪʃ(ə)n ,rɪ'fleks/ *noun* (of the lens of the eye) the ability to focus on objects at different distances, using the ciliary muscle

accommodative squint /ə,kɒmə'detɪv 'skwɪnt/ *noun* a squint when the eye is trying to focus on an object which is very close

accouchement /ə'ku:fmənt/ *noun* the time when a woman is being looked after because her baby is being born, or has just been born

accountability /ə,kaʊntə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* the state of being responsible to someone else for an action
○ *developing and maintaining standards of accountability*

accountable /ə'kaʊntəb(ə)l/ *adjective* responsible to someone else for an action ○ *accountable to the public*

accretion /ə'kri:f(ə)n/ *noun* a gradual increase in size, as through growth or external addition ○ *an accretion of calcium around the joint*

acebutolol /,æsrɪ'bjʊ:təbl/ *noun* a drug which reduces both the heart rate and how strongly the heart muscles contract, used in the treatment of high blood pressure and irregular heart rhythms

ACE inhibitor /'eɪs ɪn'hɪbɪtə/ *noun* same as **angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor**

acephalus /eɪ'sefələs/ *noun* a fetus born without a head

acetabuloplasty /,æsrɪ'tæbjʊləp,læsti/ *noun* a surgical operation to repair or rebuild the acetabulum

acetabulum /,æsrɪ'tæbjʊləm/ *noun* the part of the pelvic bone, shaped like a cup, into which the head of the femur fits to form the hip joint. Also called **cotyloid cavity** (NOTE: The plural is **acetabula**.)

acetaminophen /ə,sɪtə'mɪnəfən/ *noun* US same as **paracetamol**

acetazolamide /ə,sɪtə'zɒləmaɪd/ *noun* a drug which helps a person to produce more urine, used in the treatment of oedema, glaucoma and epilepsy

acetonaemia /ə,sɪtəʊ'ni:mɪə/ same as **keto-naemia**

acetone /'æsrɪtəʊn/ *noun* a colourless volatile substance formed in the body after vomiting or during diabetes. ▶ **ketone**

acetonuria /ə,sɪtəʊ'njʊəriə/ *noun* the presence of acetone in the urine, shown by the fact that the urine gives off a sweet smell

acetylcholine /,æsrɪtəl'kəʊlɪn/ *noun* a substance released from nerve endings, which allows nerve impulses to move from one nerve to another or from a nerve to the organ it controls

COMMENT: Acetylcholine receptors are of two types, muscarinic, found in parasympathetic post-ganglionic nerve junctions, and nicotinic, found at neuromuscular junctions and in autonomic ganglia. Acetylcholine acts on both types of receptors, but other drugs act on one or the other.

acetylcoenzyme A /,æsrɪtəl'kəʊ,enzəɪm 'eɪ/ *noun* a compound produced in the metabolism of carbohydrates, fatty acids and amino acids

acetylsalicylic acid /,æsrɪtəl,sæləsɪlɪk 'æsɪd/ *noun* ▶ **aspirin**

achalasia /,ækə'leɪziə/ *noun* the condition of being unable to relax the muscles

ache /eɪk/ *noun* a pain which goes on for a time, but is not very severe ○ *He complained of various aches and pains.* ■ *verb* to have a pain in part of the body ○ *His tooth ached so much he went to the dentist.*

Achilles tendon /ə,kɪlɪz 'tendən/ *noun* a tendon at the back of the ankle which connects the calf muscles to the heel and which acts to pull up the heel when the calf muscle is contracted

achillorrhaphy /,ækɪ'lɔ:rəfi/ *noun* a surgical operation to stitch a torn Achilles tendon

achillotomy /,ækɪ'lɔ:təmi/ *noun* a surgical operation to divide the Achilles tendon

achlorhydria /,eɪklɔ:'haɪdriə/ *noun* a condition in which the gastric juices do not contain hydrochloric acid, a symptom of stomach cancer or pernicious anaemia

acholia /eɪ'kəʊliə/ *noun* the absence or failure of the secretion of bile

acholuria /,eɪkɔ'lʊəriə/ *noun* the absence of bile colouring in the urine

acholuric jaundice /,eɪkə'lʊ:rɪk 'dʒɔ:ndɪs/ *noun* a disease where unusually round red blood cells form, leading to anaemia, an enlarged spleen and the formation of gallstones. Also called **hereditary spherocytosis**

achondroplasia /,eɪkɒndrə'pleɪziə/ *noun* an inherited condition in which the long bones in the arms and legs do not grow fully while the rest of the bones in the body grow as usual, resulting in dwarfism

achromatopsia /,eɪkrəʊmə'tɒpsɪə/ *noun* a rare condition in which a person cannot see any colours, but only black, white and shades of grey

achy /'eɪki/ *adjective* feeling aches all over the body (*informal*)

aciclovir /eɪ'saɪkləʊvɪə/ *noun* a drug that is effective against herpesviruses. Also called **acyclovir**

acidaemia /,æsrɪ'dɪ:mɪə/ *noun* a state in which the blood has too much acid in it. It is a feature of untreated severe diabetes.

acid-base balance /,æsrɪd 'beɪs,bəleɪns/ *noun* the balance between acid and base, i.e. the pH level, in plasma

acidity /ə'sɪdɪti/ *noun* 1. the level of acid in a liquid ○ *The alkaline solution may help to reduce acidity.* 2. same as **hyperacidity**

acidosis /,æsrɪ'dəʊsɪs/ *noun* 1. a condition when there are more acid waste products such as urea than usual in the blood because of a lack of alkali 2. same as **acidity**

acidotic /,æsrɪ'dɒtɪk/ *adjective* relating to acidosis

acid reflux /,æsrɪd 'rɪ:fləks/ *noun* a condition caused by a faulty muscle in the oesophagus allowing the acid in the stomach to pass into the oesophagus

acid stomach /,æsid 'stʌmək/ *noun* same as **hyperacidity**

acinus /'æsinəs/ *noun* **1.** a tiny sac which forms part of a gland **2.** part of a lobule in the lung (NOTE: The plural is **acini**.)

acne /'ækni/ *noun* an inflammation of the sebaceous glands during puberty which makes blackheads appear on the skin, usually on the face, neck and shoulders. These blackheads often then become infected. ○ *She is using a cream to clear up her acne.*

acne rosacea /,ækni rəu'zeɪʃə/ *noun* same as **rosacea**

acne vulgaris /,ækni vol'gɑ:ris/ *noun* same as **acne**

acoustic /ə'ku:stɪk/ *adjective* relating to sound or hearing

acoustic nerve /ə'ku:stɪk nɜ:v/ *noun* the eighth cranial nerve which governs hearing and balance

acquired /ə'kwɪəd/ *adjective* referring to a condition which is neither congenital nor hereditary and which a person develops after birth in reaction to his or her environment

acquired immunity /ə'kwɪəd ɪ'mju:nɪti/ *noun* an immunity which a body acquires from having caught a disease or from immunisation, not one which is congenital

acquired immunodeficiency syndrome /ə'kwɪəd ,ɪmjənuədi'fɪʃ(ə)nsi ,sɪndrəʊm/, **acquired immune deficiency syndrome** /ə'kwɪəd ɪm,ju:n dɪ'fɪʃ(ə)nsi ,sɪndrəʊm/ *noun* a viral infection which breaks down the body's immune system. Abbreviation **AIDS**. ◇ **HIV**

acrivastine /ə'krɪvə sti:n/ *noun* a drug which reduces the amount of histamine produced by the body. It is used in the treatment of rhinitis, urticaria and eczema.

acro- /ækrəʊ/ *prefix* referring to a point or tip

acrocephalia /,ækrəʊsə'feɪliə/ *noun* same as **oxycephaly**

acrocyanosis /,ækrəʊsə'naʊsɪs/ *noun* a blue coloration of the extremities, i.e. the fingers, toes, ears and nose, which is due to poor circulation

acrodynia /,ækrəʊ'dɪniə/ *noun* a children's disease, caused by an allergy to mercury, where the child's hands, feet and face swell and become pink, and the child is also affected with fever and loss of appetite. Also called **erythroedema**, **pink disease**

acromegaly /,ækrəʊ'megəli/ *noun* a disease caused by excessive quantities of growth hormone produced by the pituitary gland, causing a slow enlargement of the hands, feet and jaws in adults

acromioclavicular /,ækrəʊmarəʊklə'vɪkjʊlə/ *adjective* relating to the acromion and the clavicle

acromion /ə'krəʊmɪən/ *noun* the pointed top of the scapula, which forms the tip of the shoulder

acronyx /'ækronɪks, 'eɪkronɪks/ *noun* a condition in which a nail grows into the flesh

acroparaesthesia /,ækrəʊpæris'ti:ziə/ *noun* a condition in which the patient experiences sharp pains in the arms and numbness in the fingers after sleep

acrophobia /,ækrə'fəʊbiə/ *noun* a fear of heights

acrosclerosis /,ækrəʊsklə'rəʊsɪs/ *noun* sclerosis which affects the extremities

ACTH *abbreviation* adrenocorticotrophic hormone

actinomycin /,æktɪnəʊ'maɪsɪn/ *noun* an antibiotic used in the treatment of children with cancer

actinomycosis /,æktɪnəʊmaɪ'kəʊsɪs/ *noun* a fungal disease transmitted to humans from cattle, causing abscesses in the mouth and lungs (**pulmonary actinomycosis**) or in the ileum (**intestinal actinomycosis**)

action potential /'ækʃən pə'tenʃəl/ *noun* a temporary change in electrical potential which occurs between the inside and the outside of a nerve or muscle fibre when a nerve impulse is sent

active immunity /,æktɪv ɪ'mju:nɪti/ *noun* immunity which is acquired by catching and surviving an infectious disease or by vaccination with a weakened form of the disease, which makes the body form antibodies

activities of daily living /æk'tɪvɪz əv ,derli 'lɪvɪŋ/ *noun* a scale used by geriatricians and occupational therapists to assess the capacity of elderly or disabled people to live independently. Abbreviation **ADLs**

activity /æk'tɪvɪti/ *noun* **1.** what someone does ○ *difficulty with activities such as walking and dressing* **2.** the characteristic behaviour of a chemical ○ *The drug's activity only lasts a few hours.* □ **antibacterial activity** effective action against bacteria

acuity /ə'kju:ɪti/ *noun* keenness of sight, hearing or intellect

acupressure /'ækjʊpɹesʃə/ *noun* a treatment which is based on the same principle as acupuncture in which, instead of needles, fingers are used on specific points on the body, called pressure points

acupuncture /'ækjʊpʌŋktʃə/ *noun* a treatment based on needles being inserted through the skin into nerve centres in order to relieve pain or treat a disorder

acute /ə'kju:t/ *adjective* referring to a disease or condition which develops rapidly and can be dangerous ○ *an acute abscess* Opposite **chronic**

acute abdomen /ə,kju:t 'æbdəmən/ *noun* any serious condition of the abdomen which requires surgery

acute bed /ə'kju:t bed/ *noun* a hospital bed reserved for people requiring immediate treatment

acute care /ə'kju:t keə/ *noun* medical or surgical treatment in a hospital, usually for a short period, for a patient with a sudden severe illness or injury

acute disseminated encephalomyelitis /ə ,kju:t dɪ,semineɪtɪd en,kefələʊmaɪə'laitɪs/ *noun* an encephalomyelitis or myelitis believed to result from an autoimmune attack on the myelin of the central nervous system

acute glaucoma /ə,kju:t glɔ:'kəʊmə/ *noun* same as **angle-closure glaucoma**

acute hospital /ə'kju:t ,hɒspɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a hospital where people go for major surgery or intensive care of medical or surgical conditions

acutely /ə'kju:tli/ *adverb* **1.** having or causing a suddenly developing medical condition ○ *acutely ill patients* ○ *acutely toxic chemicals* **2.** extremely (*informal*)

acute respiratory distress syndrome /ə ,kju:t rɪ,spɪrət(ə)ri dɪ'stɪs ,sɪndrəʊm/ *noun* an infection of the lungs, often following injury, which prevents them functioning properly. Abbreviation **ARDS**

acute rheumatism /ə,kju:t 'ru:mətɪz(ə)m/ *noun* same as **rheumatic fever**

acute rhinitis /ə,kju:t rai'naitɪs/ *noun* a virus infection which causes inflammation of the mucous membrane in the nose and throat

acute suppurative arthritis /ə,kju:t ,sʌpjʊrətɪv ɑ:θ'rartɪs/ *noun* same as **pyarthrosis**

acute toxicity /ə,kju:t tɒk'sɪsɪti/ *noun* a level of concentration of a toxic substance which makes people seriously ill or can cause death

acyclovir /eɪ'saɪkləʊvɪə/ *noun* same as **aciclovir**

acystia /eɪ'sɪstɪə/ *noun* a condition in which a baby is born without a bladder

Adam's apple /,ædəmz 'æp(ə)l/ *noun* a part of the thyroid cartilage which projects from the neck below the chin in a man. Also called **laryngeal prominence**

adapt /ə'dæpt/ *verb* **1.** to change one's ideas or behaviour to fit into a new situation ○ *She has adapted very well to her new job in the children's hospital.* **2.** to change something to make it more useful ○ *The brace has to be adapted to fit the patient.*

adaptation /,ædəp'teɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a change which has been or can be made to something **2.** the act of changing something so that it fits a new situation

ADD *abbreviation* attention deficit disorder

Addison's anaemia /,ædɪs(ə)nz ə'ni:miə/ same as **pernicious anaemia** [Described 1849. After Thomas Addison (1793–1860), from Northumberland, founder of the science of endocrinology.]

Addison's disease /'ædɪs(ə)nz dɪ,zi:z/ *noun* a disease of the adrenal glands, causing a change in skin colour to yellow and then to dark brown and resulting in general weakness, anaemia, low blood pressure and wasting away. Treatment is with corticosteroid injections. [Described 1849. After Thomas Addison (1793–1860), from Northumberland, founder of the science of endocrinology.]

adducent /ə'dju:s(ə)nt/ *adjective* referring to a muscle which brings parts of the body together or moves them towards the central line of the body or a limb. Compare **abducent**

adduct /ə'dʌkt/ *verb* (of a muscle) to pull a leg or arm towards the central line of the body, or to pull a toe or finger towards the central line of a leg or arm. Opposite **abduct**

adducted /ə'dʌktɪd/ *adjective* referring to a body part brought towards the middle of the body

adduction /ə'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the movement of a part of the body towards the midline or towards a neighbouring part. Compare **abduction**. See illustration at **ANATOMICAL TERMS** in Supplement

adductor /ə'dʌktə/, **adductor muscle** /ə 'dʌktə ,mʌs(ə)l/ *noun* a muscle which pulls a part of the body towards the central line of the body. Opposite **abductor**

aden- /ædɪn/ *prefix* same as **adeno-** (used before vowels)

adenectomy /,ædɪ'nektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of a gland

adenine /'ædəni:n/ *noun* one of the four basic chemicals in DNA

adenitis /,ædɪ'naitɪs/ *noun* inflammation of a gland or lymph node. ⇨ **lymphadenitis**

adeno- /ædɪnəʊ/ *prefix* referring to glands

adenocarcinoma /,ædɪnəʊkɑ:sɪ'nəʊmə/ *noun* a malignant tumour of a gland

adenohypophysis /,ædɪnəʊhaɪ'pɒfɪsɪs/ *noun* the front lobe of the pituitary gland which secretes most of the pituitary hormones

adenoid /'ædɪnɔɪd/ *adjective* like a gland

adenoidal /,ædɪ'nɔɪd(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to the adenoids

adenoidal tissue /,ædɪnɔɪd(ə)l 'tɪʃu:/ *noun* same as **adenoids**

adenoidectomy /,ædɪnɔɪ'dektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of the adenoids

adenoids /'ædɪnɔɪdz/ *plural noun* a mass of tissue at the back of the nose and throat that can restrict breathing if enlarged. Also called **pharyngeal tonsils**

adenoid vegetation /ˌædɪnɔɪd ˌvedʒəˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a condition in children where the adenoidal tissue is covered with growths and can block the nasal passages or the Eustachian tubes

adenolymphoma /ˌædɪnəʊlɪmˈfəʊmə/ *noun* a benign tumour of the salivary glands

adenoma /ˌædɪˈnəʊmə/ *noun* a benign tumour of a gland

adenomyoma /ˌædɪnəʊmaɪˈəʊmə/ *noun* a benign tumour made up of glands and muscle

adenopathy /ˌædɪˈnɒpəθi/ *noun* a disease of a gland

adenosclerosis /ˌædɪnəʊskləˈrəʊsɪs/ *noun* the hardening of a gland

adenosine /əˈdenəʊsɪn/ *noun* a drug used to treat an irregular heartbeat

adenosine diphosphate /əˈdenəʊsɪn daɪˈfɒsfet/ *noun* a chemical compound which provides energy for processes to take place within living cells, formed when adenosine triphosphate reacts with water. Abbreviation **ADP**

adenosine triphosphate /əˈdenəʊsɪn traɪˈfɒsfet/ *noun* a chemical which occurs in all cells, but mainly in muscle, where it forms the energy reserve. Abbreviation **ATP**

adenosis /ˌædɪˈnəʊsɪs/ *noun* any disease or disorder of the glands

adenovirus /ˌædɪnəʊˈvaɪrəs/ *noun* a virus which produces upper respiratory infections and sore throats and can cause fatal pneumonia in infants

ADH *abbreviation* antidiuretic hormone

ADHD *abbreviation* attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

adhesion /ədˈhiːʒ(ə)n/ *noun* a stable connection between two parts in the body, either in a healing process or between parts which are not usually connected

adhesive dressing /ədˈhiːsɪv ˈdresɪŋ/ *noun* a dressing with a sticky substance on the back so that it can stick to the skin

adipose /ˈædɪpəs/ *adjective* containing fat, or made of fat

adipose degeneration /ˌædɪpəs dɪˈdʒenəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an accumulation of fat in the cells of an organ such as the heart or liver, which makes the organ less able to perform its proper function. Also called **fatty degeneration**

adiposis /ˌædɪˈpəʊsɪs/ *noun* a state where too much fat is accumulated in the body

adiposis dolorosa /ædɪˈpəʊsɪs ˌdɒləˈrəʊsə/ *noun* a disease of middle-aged women in which painful lumps of fatty substance form in the body. Also called **Dercum's disease**

adiposogenitalis /ædɪˈpəʊsəʊdʒenɪˈteɪlɪs/ *noun* same as **Fröhlich's syndrome**

adiposuria /ˌædɪpsəʊˈjuːrɪə/ *noun* the presence of fat in the urine

adiposus /ˌædɪˈpəʊsəs/ ♦ **panniculus adiposus**

aditus /ˈædɪtəs/ *noun* an opening or entrance to a passage

adjustment /əˈdʒʌstmənt/ *noun* a specific directional high-speed movement of a joint performed by a chiropractor

adjuvant /ˈædʒʊvənt/ *adjective* referring to treatment by drugs or radiation therapy after surgery for cancer ■ *noun* a substance added to a drug to enhance the effect of the main ingredient

adjuvant therapy /ˈædʒʊvənt ˌθerəpi/ *noun* therapy using drugs or radiation after cancer surgery

ADLs *abbreviation* activities of daily living

administer /ədˈmɪnɪstə/ *verb* to give someone medicine or a treatment □ **to administer orally** to give a medicine by mouth

admission /ədˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of being registered as a hospital patient

adnexa /ædˈneksə/ *plural noun* structures attached to an organ

adolescence /ˌædɔːles(ə)ns/ *noun* the period of life when a child is developing into an adult

adolescent /ˌædɔːles(ə)nt/ *noun* a person who is at the stage of life when he or she is developing into an adult ■ *adjective* developing into an adult, or occurring at that stage of life ○ *adolescent boys and girls* ○ *adolescent fantasies*

adoptive immunotherapy /əˈdɒptɪv ɪmˌjʊnəˈθerəpi/ *noun* a treatment for cancer in which the patient's own white blood cells are used to attack cancer cells

ADP *abbreviation* adenosine diphosphate

adrenal /əˈdrɪn(ə)l/ *adjective* situated near the kidney ■ *noun* same as **adrenal gland**

adrenalectomy /əˈdrɪnəˈlektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of one of the adrenal glands

adrenal gland /əˈdrɪn(ə)l glænd/ *noun* one of two endocrine glands at the top of the kidneys which secrete cortisone, adrenaline and other hormones. Also called **adrenal body**, **adrenal**. See illustration at **KIDNEY** in Supplement

adrenaline /əˈdrenəlɪn/ *noun* a hormone secreted by the medulla of the adrenal glands which has an effect similar to stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system

adrenal medulla /əˈdrɪn(ə)l meˈdʌlə/ *noun* the inner part of the adrenal gland which secretes adrenaline and noradrenaline. Also called **suprarenal medulla**

adrenergic /ˌædrəˈnɜːdʒɪk/ *adjective* referring to a neurone or receptor which is stimulated by adrenaline. ○ **beta blocker**

adrenergic receptor /ˌædrənɜːdʒɪk rɪˈseptə/ *noun* same as **adrenoceptor**

COMMENT: Three types of adrenergic receptor act in different ways when stimulated by

adrenaline. Alpha receptors constrict the bronchi, beta 1 receptors speed up the heartbeat and beta 2 receptors dilate the bronchi.

adrenoceptor /ə,drenəʊ'septə/ *noun* a cell or neurone which is stimulated by adrenaline. Also called **adrenoreceptor**, **adrenergic receptor**

adrenocortical /ə,dri:nəʊ'kɔ:tɪk(ə)/ *adjective* relating to the cortex of the adrenal glands

adrenocorticotrophic hormone /ə,dri:nəʊ'kɔ:təkəʊtrɒfɪk 'hɔ:məʊn/ *noun* a hormone secreted by the pituitary gland, which makes the cortex of the adrenal glands produce corticosteroids. Abbreviation **ACTH**. Also called **corticotrophin**

adrenocorticotrophin /ə,dri:nəʊkɔ:təkəʊ'trəʊfɪn/ *noun* adrenaline extracted from animals' adrenal glands and used to prevent haemorrhages or to help asthmatic conditions

adrenogenital syndrome /ə,dri:nəʊ'dʒenɪt(ə)l,sɪndrəʊm/ *noun* a condition caused by overproduction of male sex hormones, where boys show rapid sexual development and females develop male characteristics

adrenolytic /ədri:nəʊ'litɪk/ *adjective* acting against the secretion of adrenaline

adrenoreceptor /ə,drenəʊrɪ'septə/ *noun* same as **adrenoceptor**

adsorbent /æd'sɔ:bənt/ *adjective* being capable of adsorption

adsorption /æd'sɔ:pʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the attachment of one substance to another, often the bonding of a liquid with a gas or vapour which touches its surface

adult /'ædʌlt/ *adjective* grown-up ○ *Adolescents reach the adult stage about the age of eighteen or twenty.* ■ *noun* someone who is no longer a child

adult coeliac disease /'ædʌlt 'si:liæk dɪ'zi:z/ *noun* a condition in adults where the villi in the intestine become smaller and so reduce the surface which can absorb nutrients

adult dentition /'ædʌlt den'tɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the 32 teeth which an adult has

adulteration /ə,dʌltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making something less pure by adding another substance

adult respiratory distress syndrome /'ædʌlt rɪ'spræt(ə)rɪ dɪ'stɪs,sɪndrəʊm/ *noun* a description of various lung infections which reduce the lungs' efficiency. Abbreviation **ARDS**

advanced trauma life support /əd,vɑ:nst'tɹɔ:mɑ 'laɪf sə,pɔ:t/ *noun* the management of a trauma patient during the critical first hour after injury. Abbreviation **ATLS**

adventitious /'ædvən'tɪʃəs/ *adjective* on the outside or in an unusual place

adventitious bursa /'ædvəntɪʃəs 'bɜ:sə/ *noun* a bursa which develops as a result of continued pressure or rubbing

adverse /'ædvɜ:s/ *adjective* harmful or unfavourable

adverse occurrence /'ædvɜ:s ə'kʌrəns/ *noun* a harmful event which occurs during treatment

advocacy /'ædvəkəsi/ *noun* active support for something, especially in order to help people who would have difficulty in gaining attention without your help

adynamic ileus /eɪ,dəɪnəmɪk 'ɪliəs/ *noun* same as **paralytic ileus**

aegophony /i:'gɒfəni/ *noun* a high sound of the voice heard through a stethoscope, where there is fluid in the pleural cavity

aer- /eə/ *prefix* same as **aero-** (used before vowels)

aeration /eə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the adding of air or oxygen to a liquid

aero- /eərəʊ/ *prefix* referring to air

aeroba /eə'rəʊbə/, **aerobe** /'eərəʊb/ *noun* a tiny organism which needs oxygen to survive

aerobic /eə'rəʊbɪk/ *adjective* needing oxygen to live, or taking place in the presence of oxygen

aerogenous /eə'rɒdʒənəs/ *adjective* referring to a bacterium which produces gas

aerophagia /'eərə'feɪdʒə/, **aerophagy** /eə'rɒfədʒɪ/ *noun* the habit of swallowing air when suffering from indigestion, so making the stomach pains worse

aerosol /'eərəsɒl/ *noun* tiny particles of a liquid such as a drug or disinfectant suspended in a gas under pressure in a container and used as a spray

aetiology /'i:ti'blədʒɪ/ *noun* 1. the cause or origin of a disease 2. the study of the causes and origins of diseases

AfC abbreviation Agenda for Change

afebrile /eɪ'fi:brɪl/ *adjective* with no fever

affect /ə'fekt/ *verb* to make something or someone change, especially to have a bad effect on something or someone ○ *Some organs are rapidly affected if the patient lacks oxygen for even a short time.* ■ *noun* same as **affection**

affection /ə'fekʃ(ə)n/, **affect** /ə'fekt/ *noun* the general state of a person's emotions

affective /ə'fektɪv/ *adjective* relating to a person's moods or feelings

affective disorder /ə'fektɪv dɪs'ɔ:də/ *noun* a condition which changes someone's mood, making him or her depressed or excited

afferent /'æf(ə)rənt/ *adjective* conducting liquid or electrical impulses towards the inside. Opposite **efferent**

afferent nerve /'æf(ə)rənt,nɜ:v/ *noun* same as **sensory nerve**

afferent vessel /'æf(ə)rənt 'ves(ə)l/ *noun* a tube which brings lymph to a gland

affinity /ə'fɪnɪtɪ/ *noun* an attraction between two substances

aflatoxin /,æflə'tɒksɪn/ *noun* a poison produced by some moulds in some crops such as peanuts

African trypanosomiasis /,æfrɪkən 'trɪpənəsəʊ'maɪəsis/ *noun* same as **sleeping sickness**

afterbirth /'ɑ:ftəbɜ:θ/ *noun* the tissues, including the placenta and umbilical cord, which are present in the uterus during pregnancy and are expelled after the birth of a baby

aftercare /'ɑ:ftəkeə/ *noun* **1.** the care of a person who has had an operation. Aftercare treatment involves changing dressings and helping people to look after themselves again. **2.** the care of a mother who has just given birth

after-effect /'ɑ:ftər ɪ'fekt/ *noun* a change which appears only some time after the cause ○ *The operation had some unpleasant after-effects.*

after-image /'ɑ:ftər ɪ'mɪdʒ/ *noun* an image of an object which remains in a person's sight after the object itself has gone

afterpains /'ɑ:ftəpeɪnz/ *plural noun* regular pains in the uterus which are sometimes experienced after childbirth

afunctional /eɪ 'fʌŋkʃən(ə)l/ *adjective* which does not function properly

agalactia /,eɪgə'læktɪə/ *noun* a condition in which a mother is unable to produce milk after childbirth

agammaglobulinaemia /eɪ,gæməglɒbjʊlɪ 'ni:mɪə/ *noun* a deficiency or absence of immunoglobulins in the blood, which results in a reduced ability to provide immune responses

agar /'eɪgə/, **agar agar** /,eɪgə 'eɪgə/ *noun* a culture medium based on an extract of seaweed used for growing microorganisms in laboratories

age /eɪdʒ/ *noun* the number of years which a person has lived ○ *What's your age on your next birthday?* ○ *He was sixty years of age.* ○ *The size varies according to age.* ■ *verb* to grow old

age group /'eɪdʒ grʊ:p/ *noun* all the people of a particular age or within a particular set of ages ○ *the age group 20–25*

agency /'eɪdʒənsɪ/ *noun* **1.** an organisation which carries out work on behalf of another organisation, e.g. one which recruits and employs nurses and supplies them to hospitals temporarily when full-time nursing staff are unavailable **2.** the act of causing something to happen ○ *The disease develops through the agency of bacteria present in the bloodstream.*

Agenda for Change /ə,dʒendə fə 'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* a pay and reform package designed to ensure that all directly employed NHS staff are paid on the basis of equal pay for work of equal

value, implemented in December 2004. Abbreviation **AfC**

agenesis /eɪ'dʒenəsɪs/ *noun* the absence of an organ, resulting from a failure in embryonic development

agent /'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* **1.** a chemical substance which makes another substance react **2.** a substance or organism which causes a disease or condition **3.** a person who acts as a representative of another person or carries out some kinds of work on his or her behalf

agglutination /ə,glu:tɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of coming together or sticking to one another to form a clump, as of bacteria cells in the presence of serum, or blood cells when blood of different types is mixed

agglutinin /ə'glu:tɪnɪn/ *noun* a factor in a serum which makes cells stick together in clumps

agglutininogen /,æglu:'tɪnədʒən/ *noun* a factor in red blood cells which reacts with a specific agglutinin in serum

agitation /ædʒɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a state of being very nervous and anxious

aglossia /eɪ'glɒsɪə/ *noun* the condition of not having a tongue from birth

agnosia /æɡ'nəʊzɪə/ *noun* a brain disorder in which a person fails to recognise places, people, tastes or smells which they used to know well

agonist /'æɡənɪst/ *noun* **1.** a muscle which causes part of the body to move and another muscle to relax when it contracts. Also called **prime mover** **2.** a substance which produces an observable physiological effect by acting through specific receptors. ☐ **antagonist**

agony /'æɡəni/ *noun* a very severe physical or emotional pain ○ *He lay in agony on the floor.* ○ *She suffered the agony of waiting for weeks until her condition was diagnosed.*

agoraphobia /,æɡ(ə)rə'fəʊbiə/ *noun* a fear of being in open spaces. Compare **claustrophobia**

agoraphobic /,æɡ(ə)rə'fəʊbɪk/ *adjective* afraid of being in open spaces. Compare **claustrophobic**

agranulocytosis /ə,ɡrænjʊləʊsaɪ'təʊsɪs/ *noun* a usually fatal disease where the number of granulocytes, a type of white blood cell, falls sharply because of a bone marrow condition

agraphia /eɪ'ɡræfɪə/ *noun* the condition of being unable to put ideas into writing

AHF *abbreviation* antihæmophilic factor

aid /eɪd/ *noun* **1.** help **2.** a machine, tool or drug which helps someone do something ○ *He uses a walking frame as an aid to exercising his legs.* ■ *verb* to help someone or something ○ *The procedure is designed to aid the repair of tissues after surgery.*

AID /,eɪ ə 'di:/ *noun* full form **artificial insemination by donor**. Now called **DI**

AIDS /eɪdz/, *Aids* *noun* a viral infection which breaks down the body's immune system. Full form **acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, acquired immune deficiency syndrome**

AIDS dementia /,eɪdz dɪ'menʃə/ *noun* a form of mental degeneration resulting from infection with HIV

AIDS-related complex /,eɪdz rɪˌleɪtɪd 'kɒmpleks/, **AIDS-related condition** /,eɪdz rɪˌleɪtɪd kən'dɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* early symptoms shown by someone infected with the HIV virus, e.g. weight loss, fever and herpes zoster. Abbreviation **ARC**

AIH *abbreviation* artificial insemination by husband

ailment /'eɪlmənt/ *noun* an illness, though not generally a very serious one ○ *Chickenpox is one of the common childhood ailments.*

air bed /'eə bed/ *noun* a mattress which is filled with air, used to prevent the formation of bedsores. ♀ **conduction**

airborne infection /,eəbɔ:n ɪn'fekʃən/ *noun* an infection which is carried in the air

air conduction /'eə kənˌdʌkʃən/ *noun* the process by which sounds pass from the outside to the inner ear through the auditory meatus

air embolism /'eər ˌembəlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a blockage caused by bubbles of air, that stops the flow of blood in vessels

air passage /'eə ˌpæʃɪdʒ/ *noun* any tube which takes air to the lungs, e.g. the nostrils, pharynx, larynx, trachea and bronchi

airsickness /'eəsɪknəs/ *noun* a queasy feeling, usually leading to vomiting, caused by the movement of an aircraft

airway /'eəweɪ/ *noun* a passage through which air passes, especially the trachea

akathisia /,eɪkə'tɪʃiə/ *noun* restlessness

akinesia /,eɪkɪ'ni:ziə/ *noun* a lack of voluntary movement, as in Parkinson's disease

akinetic /,eɪkɪ'netɪk/ *adjective* without movement

alacrima /eɪ'lækrɪmə/ *noun* same as **xerosis**

alactasia /,eɪlæk'teɪziə/ *noun* a condition in which there is a deficiency of lactase in the intestine, making the patient incapable of digesting lactose, the sugar in milk

alalia /eɪ'leɪliə/ *noun* a condition in which a person completely loses the ability to speak

alanine /'æləni:n/ *noun* an amino acid

alanine aminotransferase /,æləni:n əˌmɪnəʊ'trænsfəreɪz/ *noun* an enzyme which is found in the liver and can be monitored as an indicator of liver damage. Abbreviation **ALT**

alar cartilage /,eɪlə 'kɑ:tɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* cartilage in the nose

Albee's operation /'ɔ:lbɪ:z ɒpə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a surgical operation to fuse two or more ver-

tebrae [After Frederick Houdlett Albee (1876–1945), US surgeon.]

albinism /'ælbɪnɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a condition in which a person lacks the pigment melanin and so has pink skin and eyes and white hair. It is hereditary and cannot be treated. ♀ **vittiligo**

albino /æ'lbi:nəʊ/ *noun* a person who is deficient in melanin and has little or no pigmentation in the skin, hair or eyes

albuginea oculi /,ælbjʊdʒɪniə 'ɒkjʊlaɪ/ *noun* same as **sclera**

albumin /'ælbjʊmɪn/ *noun* a common protein, which is soluble in water, found in plant and animal tissue and digested in the intestine

albuminuria /,ælbjʊmɪ'njʊəriə/ *noun* a condition in which albumin is found in the urine, usually a sign of kidney disease, but also sometimes of heart failure

albumose /'ælbjʊməʊz/ *noun* an intermediate product in the digestion of protein

alcohol /'ælkəhɒl/ *noun* a pure colourless liquid which is formed by the action of yeast on sugar solutions and forms part of drinks such as wine and whisky

alcohol abuse /'ælkəhɒl əˌbju:z/ *noun* the excessive use of alcohol adversely affecting a person's health

alcohol addiction /'ælkəhɒl əˌdɪkʃən/ *noun* a condition in which a person is dependent on the use of alcohol

alcohol-fast /'ælkəhɒl fɑ:st/ *adjective* referring to an organ stained for testing which is not discoloured by alcohol

alcoholic /,ælkə'hɒlɪk/ *adjective* containing alcohol ■ *noun* a person who is addicted to drinking alcohol and shows changes in behaviour and personality

alcoholic cirrhosis /,ælkəhɒlɪk sɪ'rəʊsɪs/ *noun* cirrhosis of the liver caused by alcoholism

Alcoholics Anonymous /,ælkəhɒlɪks əˈnɒnɪməs/ *noun* an organisation of former alcoholics which helps people to overcome their dependence on alcohol by encouraging them to talk about their problems in group therapy. Abbreviation **AA**

alcoholism /'ælkəhɒlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* excessive drinking of alcohol which becomes addictive

alcohol poisoning /'ælkəhɒl ˌpɔɪz(ə)nɪŋ/ *noun* poisoning and disease caused by excessive drinking of alcohol

alcoholuria /,ælkəhɒ'ljuəriə/ *noun* a condition in which alcohol is present in the urine (NOTE: The level of alcohol in the urine is used as a test for drivers who are suspected of driving while drunk.)

aldosterone /æ'lɒnstəʊən/ *noun* a hormone secreted by the cortex of the adrenal gland, which regulates the balance of sodium and potassium in the body and the amount of body fluid

aldosteronism /æl'dɒst(ə)rənɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a condition in which a person produces too much aldosterone, so that there is too much salt in the blood. This causes high blood pressure and the need to drink a lot of liquids.

aleukaemic /,ɛɪlu:'ki:mɪk/ *adjective* referring to a state where leukaemia is not present

Alexander technique /,æɪg'zɑ:ndə tek ,nɪ:k/ *noun* a method of improving the way a person stands and moves, by making them much more aware of how muscles behave

alexia /ɛɪ'leksɪə/ *noun* a condition in which the patient cannot understand printed words. Also called **word blindness**

alfacalcidol /,ælfə'kælsɪdɒl/ *noun* a substance related to vitamin D, used by the body to maintain the right levels of calcium and phosphate, and also as a drug to help people who do not have enough vitamin D

algesimeter /,ældʒɪ'sɪmɪtə/ *noun* an instrument to measure the sensitivity of the skin to pain

-algia /ældʒɪə/ *suffix* a word ending that indicates a painful condition

algid /'ældʒɪd/ *adjective* referring to a stage in a disease that causes fever during which the body becomes cold

alienation /,ɛɪliə'neɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a psychological condition in which a person develops the feeling of not being part of the everyday world, and as a result often becomes hostile to other people

alignment /ə'lainmənt/ *noun* the arrangement of something in a straight line, or in the correct position in relation to something else

alimentary /,æɪ'ment(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* providing food, or relating to food or nutrition

alimentary canal /æɪ'ment(ə)rɪ kə'næl/ *noun* a tube in the body going from the mouth to the anus and including the throat, stomach and intestine, through which food passes and is digested

COMMENT: The alimentary canal is formed of the mouth, throat, oesophagus stomach and small and large intestines. Food is broken down by digestive juices in the mouth, stomach and small intestine, water is removed in the large intestine, and the remaining matter is passed out of the body as faeces.

alimentation /,æɪmen'teɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the act of providing food or nourishment

aliquot /'æɪkwɒt/ *noun* a part of a larger thing, especially a sample of something which is taken to be examined

alkalaemia /,ælkə'li:miə/ *noun* an excess of alkali in the blood

alkali /'ælkəlaɪ/ *noun* one of many substances which neutralise acids and form salts (NOTE: The plural is **alkalis**.)

alkaline /'ælkəlaɪn/ *adjective* containing more alkali than acid

alkalinity /,ælkə'lnɪti/ *noun* the level of alkali in a body ○ *Hyperventilation causes fluctuating carbon dioxide levels in the blood, resulting in an increase of blood alkalinity.*

alkaloid /'ælkələɪd/ *noun* one of many poisonous substances found in plants and used as medicines, e.g. atropine, morphine or quinine

alkalosis /,ælkə'ləʊsɪs/ *noun* a condition in which the alkali level in the body tissue is high, producing cramps

alkaptonuria /,ælkæptə'njuəriə/ *noun* a hereditary condition where dark pigment is present in the urine

allantois /ə'læntəʊsɪs/ *noun* one of the membranes in the embryo, shaped like a sac, which grows out of the embryonic hindgut

allele /ə'li:l/ *noun* one of two or more alternative forms of a gene, situated in the same area on each of a pair of chromosomes and each producing a different effect

allergen /'ælədʒən/ *noun* a substance which produces hypersensitivity

allergenic agent /,ælədʒenɪk 'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* a substance which produces an allergy

allergic /'ɜ:lɜ:dʒɪk/ *adjective* having an allergy to something ○ *She is allergic to cats.* ○ *I'm allergic to penicillin.*

allergy /'ælədʒɪ/ *noun* an unusual sensitivity to some substances such as pollen or dust, which cause a physical reaction such as sneezing or a rash in someone who comes into contact with them ○ *She has an allergy to household dust.* ○ *He has a penicillin allergy.* (NOTE: You **have an allergy** or you **are allergic** to something.)

allergy bracelet /'ælədʒɪ ,breɪslət/ *noun* ▶ **medical alert bracelet**

allied health professional /,æɪləd 'helθ prə ,feɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *noun* a professional working in medicine who is not a doctor or nurse, e.g. a physiotherapist or paramedic

allo- /æləʊ/ *prefix* different

allocation /,ælə'keɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the way an amount of something is divided among the various departments of an organisation, or the amount which is received by a particular department

allodynia /,ælə'dɪniə/ *noun* pain of the skin caused by something such as clothing which usually does not cause pain

allograft /'æləʊgrɑ:ft/ *noun* same as **homograft**

allopathy /ə'lɒpəθi/ *noun* the treatment of a condition using drugs which produce opposite symptoms to those of the condition. Compare **homeopathy**

allopurinol /,æləʊ'pjuəriɒnəl/ *noun* a drug which helps to stop the body producing uric acid, used in the treatment of gout

all or none law /ˌɔːl ɔː ˈnʌn lɔː/ *noun* the rule that the heart muscle either contracts fully or does not contract at all

allylestrenol /ˌælaɪˈestrənɒl/ *noun* a steroid used to encourage pregnancy

alopecia /ˌæləˈpiːʃə/ *noun* a condition in which hair is lost. Compare **hypotrichosis**

alopecia areata /ˌæləpiːʃə ˌæriˈeɪtə/ *noun* a condition in which the hair falls out in patches

alpha /ˈælfə/ *noun* the first letter of the Greek alphabet

alpha-adrenoceptor antagonist /ˌælfə ə ˈdriːnɔːrɪˈseptə ænˌtəɡənɪst/ **alpha-adrenoceptor blocker** /ˌælfə ˌblɒkə/ *noun* a drug which can relax smooth muscle, used to treat urinary retention and hypertension. Also called **alpha blocker**

alpha-fetoprotein /ˌælfə ˌfiːtəʊˈprəʊtiːn/ *noun* a protein produced by the liver of the human fetus, which accumulates in the amniotic fluid. A high or low concentration is tested for by amniocentesis in the antenatal diagnosis of spina bifida or Down's syndrome, respectively.

Alport's syndrome /ˈɔːlˌpɔːts ˌsɪndrəm/ *noun* a genetic disease of the kidneys which sometimes causes a person to lose his or her hearing and sight

alprostadil /ælˈprɒstədɪl/ *noun* a drug which makes blood vessels wider, used to treat impotence, prevent coagulation, and maintain babies with congenital heart conditions

ALT *abbreviation* alanine aminotransferase

alternative medicine /ɔːlˌtɜːnətɪv ˈmed(ə)ɪn/ *noun* the treatment of illness using therapies such as homeopathy or naturopathy which are not considered part of conventional Western medicine. † **complementary medicine**

altitude sickness /ˈæltɪtjuːd ˌsɪknəs/ *noun* a condition caused by reduced oxygen in the air above altitudes of 7000 to 8000 feet (3600 metres). Symptoms include headaches, breathlessness, fatigue, nausea and swelling of the face, hands and feet. Also called **high-altitude sickness**, **mountain sickness**

aluminium hydroxide /æləˌmɪniəm haɪ ˈdrɒksaɪd/ *noun* a chemical substance used as an antacid to treat indigestion. Formula: Al(OH)₃ or Al₂O₃·3H₂O.

alveolar /ˌælvɪˈəʊlə ˌæɪˈviːələ/ *adjective* referring to the alveoli

alveolar duct /ˌælvɪˈəʊlə ˌdʌkt/ *noun* a duct in the lung which leads from the respiratory bronchioles to the alveoli. See illustration at **LUNGS** in Supplement

alveolitis /ˌælvɪəˈlaɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of an alveolus in the lungs or the socket of a tooth

alveolus /ˌælvɪˈəʊləs ˌæɪˈviːələs/ *noun* a small cavity, e.g. an air sac in the lungs or the socket

into which a tooth fits. See illustration at **LUNGS** in Supplement (NOTE: The plural is **alveoli**.)

Alzheimer plaque /ˈæltʃaɪmə plæk/ *noun* a disc-shaped plaque of amyloid found in the brain in people who have Alzheimer's disease

Alzheimer's disease /ˈæltʃaɪməz dɪˌziːz/ *noun* a disease where a person experiences progressive dementia due to nerve cell loss in specific brain areas, resulting in loss of mental faculties including memory [Described 1906. After Alois Alzheimer (1864–1915), Bavarian physician.]

amalgam /əˈmælgəm/ *noun* a mixture of metals, based on mercury and tin, used by dentists to fill holes in teeth

amaurosis /ˌæməʊˈrɔːsɪs/ *noun* blindness caused by disease of the optic nerve

amaurotic familial idiocy /ˌæməʊˈrɒtɪk fə ˌmɪliəl ˈɪdiəsi/ **amaurotic family idiocy** /ˌæməʊˈrɒtɪk ˌfæm(ə)li ˈɪdiəsi/ *noun* same as **Tay-Sachs disease**

amb- /æmb/ *prefix* same as **ambi-** (used before vowels)

ambi- /æmbi/ *prefix* both

ambidextrous /ˌæmbɪˈdekstrəs/ *adjective* referring to a person who can use both hands equally well and who is not right- or left-handed

ambisexual /ˌæmbɪˈsekʃuəl/ *adjective, noun* same as **bisexual**

amblyopia /ˌæmbliˈəʊpiə/ *noun* a lack of normal vision without a structural cause. A common example is squint and other forms may be caused by the cyanide in tobacco smoke or by drinking methylated spirits.

amblyopic /ˌæmbliˈɒpɪk/ *adjective* affected by amblyopia

amblyoscope /ˌæmbliəʊskəʊp/ *noun* an instrument for measuring the angle of a squint and how effectively someone uses both their eyes together. Also called **orthoptoscope**

ambulatory /ˌæmbjuˈleɪt(ə)ri/ *adjective* referring to a patient who is not confined to bed but is able to walk

ambulatory care /ˌæmbjuˈleɪt(ə)ri ˈkeə/ *noun* treatment of a patient which does not involve staying in hospital during the night

amelia /əˈmiːliə/ *noun* the absence of a limb from birth, or a condition in which a limb is short from birth

amelioration /əˌmiːliəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of getting better

ameloblastoma /ˌæmɪləʊblæstəʊmə/ *noun* a tumour in the jaw, usually in the lower jaw

amenorrhoea /ˌemənəˈriːə/ *noun* the absence of one or more menstrual periods, usual during pregnancy and after the menopause

amentia /eɪˈmenʃə/ *noun* the fact of being mentally underdeveloped

ametropia /,æmɪ'trəʊpiə/ *noun* a condition in which the eye cannot focus light correctly onto the retina, as in astigmatism, hypermetropia and myopia. Compare **emmetropia**

amfetamine /æm'fetəmi:n/ *noun* an addictive drug, similar to adrenaline, used to give a feeling of wellbeing and wakefulness. Also called **amphetamine**

amikacin /,æmɪ'keɪsɪn/ *noun* a type of antibiotic used to treat infections caused by aerobic bacteria

amiloride /ə'mɪləraɪd/ *noun* a drug which helps to increase the production of urine and preserve the body's supply of potassium

amino acid /ə,mɪ:nəʊ 'æsaɪd/ *noun* a chemical compound which is broken down from proteins in the digestive system and then used by the body to form its own protein

aminobutyric acid /ə,mɪ:nəʊbjʊ'tɪrɪk 'æsaɪd/ *noun* ▶ **gamma aminobutyric acid**

aminoglycoside /ə,mɪ:nəʊ'glɪkəsəɪd/ *noun* a drug used to treat many Gram-negative and some Gram-positive bacterial infections (NOTE: Aminoglycosides include drugs with names ending in **-cin**: **gentamicin**.)

aminophylline /,æmɪ'nɒfɪlɪ:n/ *noun* a drug that makes the bronchial tubes wider, used in the treatment of asthma

amiodarone /,æmɪ'ɒdəreɪn/ *noun* a drug that makes the blood vessels wider, used in the treatment of irregular heartbeat

amitosis /,æmɪ'təʊsɪs/ *noun* the multiplication of a cell by splitting of the nucleus

amitriptyline /,æmɪ'tɪptɪlɪ:n/ *noun* a sedative drug used to treat depression and persistent pain

amlodipine /æm'ldɪpɪ:n/ *noun* a drug that helps to control the movement of calcium ions through cell membranes. It is used to treat hypertension and angina.

ammonia /ə'məʊniə/ *noun* a gas with a strong smell, a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen, which is a usual product of human metabolism

amnesia /æm'nɪziə/ *noun* loss of memory

amnihook /'æmnihʊk/ *noun* a hooked instrument used to induce labour by pulling on the amniotic sac

amniocentesis /,æmniəʊsɛn'tɪsɪs/ *noun* a procedure which involves taking a test sample of the amniotic fluid during pregnancy using a hollow needle and syringe

amnion /'æmniən/ *noun* the thin sac containing the amniotic fluid which covers an unborn baby in the uterus. Also called **amniotic sac**

amnioscope /'æmniəskəʊp/ *noun* an instrument used to examine a fetus through the cervical channel, before the amniotic sac is broken

amniocopy /,æmni'ɒskəpi/ *noun* an examination of the amniotic fluid during pregnancy

amniotic /,æmni'ɒtɪk/ *adjective* relating to the amnion

amniotic fluid /,æmniə'tɪk 'fluɪd/ *noun* the fluid contained in the amnion which surrounds an unborn baby

amniotomy /,æmni'ɒtəmi/ *noun* a puncture of the amnion to help induce labour

amoeba /ə'mi:bə/ *noun* a form of animal life, made up of a single cell (NOTE: The plural is **amoebae**.)

amoebiasis /,æmɪ'baɪəsɪs/ *noun* an infection caused by amoebae which can result in amoebic dysentery in the large intestine (**intestinal amoebiasis**) and sometimes affects the lungs (**pulmonary amoebiasis**)

amoebic /ə'mi:bɪk/ *adjective* relating to or caused by amoebae

amorphous /ə'mɔ:fəs/ *adjective* with no regular shape

amoxicillin /ə'mɒksɪsɪlɪn/ *noun* an antibiotic

Amoxil /ə'mɒksɪl/ a trade name for amoxicillin

amphetamine /æm'fetəmi:n/ *noun* same as **amfetamine**

amphiarthrosis /,æmfɪə'θrəʊsɪs/ *noun* a joint which only has limited movement, e.g. one of the joints in the spine

amphotericin /,æmfəʊ'terɪsɪn/ *noun* an antifungal agent, used against *Candida*

ampicillin /,æmpɪ'sɪlɪn/ *noun* a type of penicillin, used as an antibiotic

ampoule /'æmpu:l/, **ampule** /'æmpju:l/ *noun* a small glass container, closed at the neck, used to contain sterile drugs for use in injections

ampulla /æm'pʊlə/ *noun* a swelling of a canal or duct, shaped like a bottle (NOTE: The plural is **ampullae**.)

amputation /,æmpju'teɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the surgical removal of a limb or part of a limb

amputee /,æmpju'ti:/ *noun* someone who has had a limb or part of a limb removed in a surgical operation

amygdala /ə'mɪgdələ/ *noun* an almond-shaped body in the brain, at the end of the caudate nucleus of the thalamus. Also called **amygdaloid body**

amygdaloid body /ə'mɪgdələɪd 'bɒdi/ *noun* same as **amygdala**

amyl- /æm(ə)l/ *prefix* referring to starch

amylase /'æmɪleɪz/ *noun* an enzyme which converts starch into maltose

amyl nitrate /,æm(ə)l 'naɪtreɪt/ *noun* a drug used to reduce blood pressure (NOTE: Amyl nitrate is also used as a recreational drug.)

amyloid /'æmɪləɪd/ *noun* a waxy protein that forms in some tissues during the development of various diseases, e.g. forming disc-shaped plaques in the brain in Alzheimer's disease

amyloid disease /ˈæmɪləɪd dɪˌzɪz/ *noun* same as **amyloidosis**

amyloidosis /ˌæmɪləɪdˈdəʊsɪs/ *noun* a disease of the kidneys and liver, where amyloid develops in the tissues. Also called **amyloid disease**

amylopsin /ˌæmɪˈlɒpsɪn/ *noun* an enzyme which converts starch into maltose

amylose /ˈæmɪləʊz/ *noun* a carbohydrate of starch

amyotonia /ˌeɪməʊəˈtəʊniə/ *noun* a lack of muscle tone

amyotonia congenita /ˌeɪməʊəˈtəʊniə kənˈdʒenɪtə/ *noun* a congenital disease of children in which the muscles lack tone. Also called **floppy baby syndrome**

amyotrophy /eɪˌməʊəˈtrəʊfiə/ *noun* a condition in which a muscle wastes away

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis /eɪˌməʊəˈtrɒfɪk ˌlætər(ə)l skləˈrəʊsɪs/ *noun* a motor neurone disease in which the limbs twitch and the muscles gradually waste away. Also called **Gehrig's disease**. Abbreviation **ALS**

amyotrophy /eɪˌməʊəˈtrəʊfi/ same as **amyotrophy**

an- /æn/ *prefix* same as **ana-** (used before vowels)

ana- /ænə/ *prefix* without or lacking

anabolic /ˌænəˈbɒlɪk/ *adjective* referring to a substance which synthesises protein

anabolic steroid /ænəˈbɒlɪk ˈstɪrɔɪd/ *noun* a drug which encourages the synthesis of new living tissue, especially muscle, from nutrients

anabolism /æˈnæbəlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the process of building up complex chemical substances on the basis of simpler ones

anacrotism /əˈnækrəɪtɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a second stroke in the pulse

anaemia /əˈniːmiə/ *noun* a condition in which the level of red blood cells is less than usual or where the haemoglobin is less, making it more difficult for the blood to carry oxygen. The symptoms are tiredness and pale colour, especially pale lips, nails and the inside of the eyelids. The condition can be fatal if not treated.

anaemic /əˈniːmɪk/ *adjective* having anaemia

anaerobe /ˈænəəʊb, ænˈeəʊb/ *noun* a microorganism which lives without oxygen, e.g. the tetanus bacillus

anaerobic /ˌænəˈrəʊbɪk/ *adjective* 1. not needing oxygen for metabolism ○ *anaerobic bacteria* 2. without oxygen ○ *anaerobic conditions*

anaesthesia /ˌænəsˈθiːziə/ *noun* 1. a state, deliberately produced in a patient by a medical procedure, in which he or she can feel no pain, either in a part or in the whole of the body 2. a loss of feeling caused by damage to nerves (NOTE: The US spelling is **anesthesia**.)

anaesthetic /ˌænəsˈθetɪk/ *adjective* inducing loss of feeling ■ *noun* a substance given to someone to remove feeling, so that he or she can undergo an operation without pain

anaesthetic induction /ˌænəsθetɪk ɪnˈdʌkʃən/ *noun* a method of inducing anaesthesia in a patient

anaesthetic risk /ˌænəsθetɪk ˈrɪsk/ *noun* the risk that an anaesthetic may cause serious unwanted side effects

anaesthetise /əˈniːsθətaɪz/, **anaesthetize** *verb* to produce a loss of feeling in a person or in part of the person's body

anaesthetist /əˈniːsθətaɪst/ *noun* a specialist who administers anaesthetics

anal /ˈeɪn(ə)l/ *adjective* relating to the anus

analeptic /ˌænəˈleptɪk/ *noun* a drug used to make someone regain consciousness or to stimulate a patient

analgesia /ˌæn(ə)lˈdʒiːziə/ *noun* a reduction of the feeling of pain without loss of consciousness

analgesic /ˌæn(ə)lˈdʒiːzɪk/ *adjective* relating to analgesia ■ *noun* a painkilling drug which produces analgesia and reduces pyrexia

anally /ˈeɪn(ə)li/ *adverb* through the anus ○ *The patient is not able to pass faeces anally.*

analyse /ˈænəlaɪz/ *verb* to examine something in detail ○ *The laboratory is analysing the blood samples.* ○ *When the food was analysed it was found to contain traces of bacteria.*

analysis /əˈnæləsɪs/ *noun* an examination of a substance to find out what it is made of (NOTE: The plural is **analyses**.)

analyst /ˈænəlaɪst/ *noun* a person who examines samples of substances or tissue, to find out what they are made of

anaphase /ˈænəfeɪz/ *noun* a stage in cell division, after the metaphase and before the telophase

anaphylactic /ˌænəfɪˈlæktɪk/ *adjective* relating to or caused by extreme sensitivity to a substance

anaphylactic shock /ˌænəfɪˈlæktɪk ˈʃɒk/ *noun* a sudden severe reaction, which can be fatal, to something such as an injected substance or a bee sting

anaphylaxis /ˌænəfɪˈlæksɪs/ *noun* 1. extreme sensitivity to a substance introduced into the body 2. same as **anaphylactic shock**

anaplasia /ˌænəˈpləsiə/ *noun* the loss of a cell's typical characteristics, caused by cancer

anaplastic /ˌænəˈplæstɪk/ *adjective* referring to anaplasia

anarthria /ænˈɑːθriə/ *noun* the loss of the ability to speak words properly

anasarca /ˌænəsˈɑːkə/ *noun* the presence of fluid in the body tissues. ⇨ **oedema**

anastomose /əˈnæstəməʊz/ *verb* to join two blood vessels or tubular structures together

anastomosis /ə,næstə'məʊsɪs/ *noun* a connection made between two blood vessels or tubular structures, either naturally or by surgery

anatomical /,ænə'tɒmɪk(ə)/ *adjective* relating to the anatomy ○ *the anatomical features of a fetus*

anatomy /ə'nætəmi/ *noun* **1.** the structure, especially the internal structure, of the body **2.** the branch of science that studies the structure of the bodies of humans, animals and plants ○ *They are studying anatomy.*

ancillary worker /æn'sɪləri,wɜ:kə/ *noun* someone who does a job for patients such cooking or cleaning which is supplementary to medical care

anconeus /æŋ'kəʊniəs/ *noun* a small triangular muscle at the back of the elbow

Ancylostoma /,ænsɪlə'stəʊmə/ *noun* a parasitic worm in the intestine which holds onto the wall of the intestine with its teeth and lives on the blood and protein of the carrier

ancylostomiasis /,ænsɪləʊstə'maɪəsɪs/ *noun* a disease of which the symptoms are weakness and anaemia, caused by a hookworm which lives on the blood of the carrier. In severe cases the person may die.

androgen /'ændrədʒən/ *noun* a male sex hormone, testosterone or androsterone, which increases the male characteristics of the body

androgenic /,ændrə'dʒenɪk/ *adjective* producing male characteristics

andrology /æn'drɒlədʒi/ *noun* the study of male sexual characteristics and subjects such as impotence, infertility and the male menopause

androsterone /æn'drɒstərəʊn/ *noun* one of the male sex hormones

anencephalous /,ænen'kefələs/ *adjective* having no brain

anencephaly /,ænen'kefəli/ *noun* the absence of a brain, which causes a fetus to die a few hours after birth

anergy /'ænədʒi/ *noun* a state of severe weakness and lack of energy

aneurine /ə'njʊəriŋ/ *noun* same as **Vitamin B₁**

aneurysm /'ænjərɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a swelling caused by the weakening of the wall of a blood vessel

angi- /ændʒi/ *prefix* same as **angio-** (used before vowels)

angiectasis /,ændʒi'ektəsis/ *noun* a swelling of the blood vessels

angiitis /,ændʒi'artɪs/ *noun* an inflammation of a blood vessel

angina /æn'dʒaɪnə/ *noun* a pain in the chest following exercise or eating, which is caused by an inadequate supply of blood to the heart muscles because of narrowing of the arteries. It is com-

monly treated with nitrates or calcium channel blocker drugs.

angina pectoris /æn,dʒaɪnə 'pektərɪs/ *noun* same as **angina**

angio- /ændʒiəʊ/ *prefix* referring to a blood vessel

angiocardigram /,ændʒiəʊ'kɑ:diəgræm/ *noun* a series of pictures resulting from angiocardiology

angiocardigraphy /,ændʒiəʊkɑ:di'ɒgrəfi/ *noun* an X-ray examination of the cardiac system after injection with an opaque dye so that the organs show up clearly on the film

angiodysplasia /,ændʒiəʊdɪs'plɜ:ziə/ *noun* a condition where the blood vessels in the colon dilate, resulting in loss of blood

angiogenesis /,ændʒiəʊ'dʒenəsɪs/ *noun* the formation of new blood vessels, e.g. in an embryo or as a result of a tumour

angiogram /'ændʒiəʊgræm/ *noun* an X-ray picture of blood vessels

angiography /,ændʒi'ɒgrəfi/ *noun* an X-ray examination of blood vessels after injection with an opaque dye so that they show up clearly on the film

angiology /,ændʒi'blədʒi/ *noun* the branch of medicine which deals with blood vessels and the lymphatic system

angioma /,ændʒi'əʊmə/ *noun* a benign tumour formed of blood vessels, e.g. a naevus

angioneurotic oedema /,ændʒiəʊnɜ:ʃ,rɒtɪk 'ɪdɪ:mə/ *noun* a sudden accumulation of liquid under the skin, similar to nettle rash

angiopathy /,ændʒi'ɒpəθi/ *noun* a disease of vessels such as blood and lymphatic vessels

angioplasty /'ændʒiəʊ,plæsti/ *noun* plastic surgery to repair a blood vessel, e.g. a narrowed coronary artery

angiosarcoma /,ændʒiəʊsɑ:'kəʊmə/ *noun* a malignant tumour in a blood vessel

angiospasm /'ændʒiəʊspæz(ə)m/ *noun* a spasm which constricts blood vessels

angiotensin /'ændʒiəʊtensɪn/ *noun* a polypeptide which affects blood pressure by causing vasoconstriction and increasing extracellular volume

angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor /,ændʒiəʊtensɪn kən,vɜ:tiŋ 'enzaim ɪn 'hɪbɪtə/ *noun* a drug which inhibits the conversion of angiotensin I to angiotensin II, which constricts arteries, used in the treatment of hypertension and heart failure. Also called **ACE inhibitor** (NOTE: ACE inhibitors have names ending in **-pril: captopril.**)

angle-closure glaucoma /,æŋɡəl,kləʊzə glɜ:'kəʊmə/ *noun* an unusually high pressure of fluid inside the eyeball caused by pressure of the

iris against the lens, trapping the aqueous humour. Also called **acute glaucoma**

angular vein /ˈæŋɡjələ veɪn/ *noun* a vein which continues the facial vein at the side of the nose

anhedonia /ˌænhɪˈdɔʊniə/ *noun* a psychological condition in which a person is unable to enjoy all the experiences that most people enjoy

anhidrosis /ˌænhɪˈdrəʊsɪs/ *noun* a condition in which sweating by the body is reduced or stops completely

anhidrotic /ˌænhɪˈdrɒtɪk/ *adjective* referring to a drug which reduces sweating

anhydraemia /ˌænhɑːˈdriːmiə/ *noun* a lack of sufficient fluid in the blood

anhydrous /ænhɪˈhaɪdrəs/ *adjective* referring to compounds or crystals that contain no water

anidrosis /ˌæniˈdrəʊsɪs/ *noun* same as **anhidrosis**

aniridia /ˌæniˈrɪdiə/ *noun* a congenital absence of the iris

anisocytosis /ˌænaɪsəʊsɑːˈtəʊsɪs/ *noun* a variation in size of red blood cells

anisomelia /ˌænaɪsəʊˈmiːliə/ *noun* a difference in length of the legs

anisometropia /ˌænaɪsəʊməˈtrəʊpiə/ *noun* a state where the refraction in the two eyes is different

ankle /ˈæŋkəl/ *noun* the part of the body where the foot is connected to the leg

ankyloblepharon /ˌæŋkɪləʊˈblefərən/ *noun* a state where the edges of the eyelids are stuck together

ankylosing spondylitis /ˌæŋkɪləʊzɪŋ spɒndɪˈlaɪtɪs/ *noun* a condition occurring more frequently in young men, in which the vertebrae and sacroiliac joints are inflamed and become stiff

ankylosis /ˌæŋkɪˈləʊsɪs/ *noun* a condition in which the bones of a joint fuse together

Ankylostoma /ˌæŋkɪlˈstəʊmə/ *noun* same as **Ancylostoma**

ankylostomiasis /ˌæŋkɪləʊstəˈmaɪəzɪs/ *noun* same as **ancylostomiasis**

annular /ˈænjələ/ *adjective* shaped like a ring

annulus /ˈænjələs/ *noun* a structure shaped like a ring

ano- /ænoʊ/ *prefix* referring to the anus

anodyne /ˈænədəɪn/ *noun* a drug which reduces pain, e.g. aspirin or codeine ■ *adjective* referring to drugs that bring relief from pain or discomfort

anomalous /əˈnɒmələs/ *adjective* different from what is usual

anomaly /əˈnɒməli/ *noun* something which is different from the usual

anomie /ˈænəmi/ *noun* a psychological condition in which a person develops the feeling of not being part of the everyday world, and behaves as though they do not have any supporting social or moral framework

anonychia /ˌænoˈnɪkiə/ *noun* a congenital absence of one or more nails

anopheles /əˈnɒfəliːz/ *noun* a mosquito which carries the malaria parasite

anoplasty /ˌeɪnəʊplæsti/ *noun* surgery to repair the anus, as in treating haemorrhoids

anorchism /ænˈɔːkɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a congenital absence of testicles

anorectal /ˌeɪnəʊˈrekt(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to both the anus and rectum

anorexia /ˌænoˈreksiə/ *noun* loss of appetite

anorexia nervosa /ˌænoˈreksiə nɜːˈvʊsə/ *noun* a psychological condition, usually found in girls and young women, in which a person refuses to eat because of a fear of becoming fat

anosmia /ænˈɒzmiə/ *noun* the lack of the sense of smell

anovular /ænˈɒvjələ/ *adjective* without an ovum

anovular bleeding /ænˈɒvjələ ˈbliːdɪŋ/ *noun* bleeding from the uterus when ovulation has not taken place

anovulation /ænˈɒvjʊˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a condition in which a woman does not ovulate and is therefore infertile

anoxaemia /ˌænɒkˈsiːmiə/ *noun* a reduction of the amount of oxygen in the blood

anoxia /ˌænɒksiə/ *noun* a lack of oxygen in body tissue

anoxic /ænˈɒksɪk/ *adjective* referring to anoxia or lacking oxygen

antacid /æntˈæsɪd/ *adjective* preventing too much acid forming in the stomach or altering the amount of acid in the stomach ■ *noun* a substance that stops too much acid forming in the stomach, used in the treatment of gastro-intestinal conditions such as ulcers, e.g. calcium carbonate or magnesium trisilicate

antagonist /ænˈtæɡənɪst/ *adjective* 1. referring to a muscle which opposes another muscle in a movement 2. referring to a substance which opposes another substance ■ *noun* a substance which acts through specific receptors to block the action of another substance, but which has no observable physiological effect itself ○ *Atropine is a cholinergic antagonist and blocks the effects of acetylcholine.*

ante- /ænti/ *prefix* before

ante cibum /ˌænti ˈtʃɪbəm, ˌænti ˈsɪːbəm/ *adverb* full form of **a.c.**

anteflexion /ˌæntiˈflekʃən/ *noun* the curving forward of an organ, e.g. the usual curvature of the uterus

antemortem /,ænti'mɔ:təm/ *noun* the period before death

antenatal /,ænti'neɪ(ə)l/ *adjective* during the period between conception and childbirth

antenatal clinic /,ænti'neɪ(ə)l ,klɪnɪk/ *noun* a clinic where expectant mothers are taught how to look after babies, do exercises and have medical checkups. Also called **maternity clinic**

antenatal diagnosis /,ænti'neɪ(ə)l ,daɪəg'nəʊsɪs/ *noun* a medical examination of a pregnant woman to see if the fetus is developing in the usual way. Also called **prenatal diagnosis**

antepartum /,ænti'pɑ:təm/ *noun* the period of three months before childbirth ■ *adjective* referring to the three months before childbirth

antepartum haemorrhage /,æntipɑ:təm 'hemərɪdʒ/ *noun* bleeding from the vagina before labour. Abbreviation **APH**

anterior /æ'n'tɪəriə/ *adjective* in front. Opposite **posterior**

anterior aspect /æ'n'tɪəriə 'æspekt/ *noun* a view of the front of the body, or of the front of part of the body. See illustration at **ANATOMICAL TERMS** in Supplement

anterior fontanelle /æ'n'tɪəriə fɒntə'nel/ *noun* the cartilage at the top of the head where the frontal bone joins the two parietals

anterior nares /æ'n'tɪəriə 'neəri:z/ *plural noun* the two nostrils. Also called **external nares**

anterograde amnesia /,æntərə'greɪd æm'nɪziə/ *noun* a brain condition in which the person cannot remember things which happened recently

anteversion /,ænti'vɜ:ʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the tilting forward of an organ, whether usual, as of the uterus, or unusual

anthelmintic /,ænthel'mɪntɪk/ *noun* a substance which removes worms from the intestine ■ *adjective* removing worms from the intestine

anthracosis /,ænthrə'kəʊsɪs/ *noun* a lung disease caused by breathing coal dust

anthrax /'ænthræks/ *noun* a disease of cattle and sheep which can be transmitted to humans

anthrop- /ænthrəp/ *prefix* referring to human beings

anthropology /,ænthrə'pɒlədʒi/ *noun* the study of human beings as a species, especially their culture or development. It differs from sociology in taking a more historical and comparative approach.

anthropometry /,ænthrə'pɒmətri/ *noun* the study of human body measurements (NOTE: The uses of anthropometry include the design of ergonomic furniture and the examination and comparison of populations.)

anti- /ænti/ *prefix* against

antiarrhythmic /,æntiə'rɪðmɪk/ *adjective* referring to a drug which corrects an irregular heartbeat

antiasthmatic /,æntiæs'mætɪk/ *adjective* referring to a drug that is used to treat asthma

antibacterial /,æntɪbæk'tɪəriəl/ *adjective* destroying bacteria

antibiotic /,æntɪbai'ɒtɪk/ *adjective* stopping the spread of bacteria ■ *noun* a drug which is developed from living substances and which stops the spread of bacteria, e.g. penicillin ○ *He was given a course of antibiotics.* ○ *Antibiotics have no effect against viral diseases.*

antibody /'æntɪbɒdi/ *noun* a protein that is stimulated by the body to produce foreign substances such as bacteria, as part of an immune reaction ○ *Tests showed that he had antibodies in his blood.*

antibody-negative /,æntɪbɒdi 'negətɪv/ *adjective* showing none of a particular antibody in the blood ○ *The donor tested antibody-negative.*

antibody-positive /,æntɪbɒdi 'pɒzɪtɪv/ *adjective* showing the presence of particular antibodies in the blood ○ *The patient is HIV antibody-positive.*

anticholinergic /,æntɪkəʊlɪ'nɜ:dʒɪk/ *adjective* blocking nerve impulses which are part of the stress response ■ *noun* one of a group of drugs which are used to control stress

anticholinesterase /,æntɪkəʊlɪ'nɜ:stəreɪz/ *noun* a substance which blocks nerve impulses by reducing the activity of the enzyme cholinesterase

anticoagulant /,æntɪkəʊ'ægjʊlənt/ *adjective* slowing or stopping the clotting of blood ■ *noun* a drug which slows down or stops the clotting of blood, used to prevent the formation of a thrombus (NOTE: Anticoagulants have names ending in **-parin**: heparin.)

anticonvulsant /,æntɪkən'vʌls(ə)nt/ *adjective* acting to control convulsions ■ *noun* a drug used to control convulsions, as in the treatment of epilepsy, e.g. carbamazepine

anti-D /,æntɪ 'di/, **anti-D gamma-globulin** /,æntɪ ,di: ,gæmə 'glɒbjʊlɪn/ *noun* Rh D immunoglobulin, used to treat pregnant women who develop antibodies when the mother is Rh-negative and the fetus is Rh-positive

antidepressant /,æntɪdɪ'pres(ə)nt/ *adjective* acting to relieve depression ■ *noun* a drug used to relieve depression by stimulating the mood of a depressed person. Examples are tricyclic antidepressants, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and monoamine oxidase inhibitors.

anti-D immunoglobulin /,æntɪ ,di: ɪmju'nəʊ 'glɒbjʊlɪn/ *noun* immunoglobulin administered to Rh-negative mothers after the birth of an Rh-positive baby, to prevent haemolytic disease of the newborn in the next pregnancy

antidiuretic /,æntidaɪəʃu'retɪk/ *noun* a substance which stops the production of excessive amounts of urine ○ *hormones which have an anti-diuretic effect on the kidneys* ■ *adjective* preventing the excessive production of urine

antidote /'æntɪdəʊt/ *noun* a substance which counteracts the effect of a poison ○ *There is no satisfactory antidote to cyanide.*

antiembolic /,æntiɪm'bɒlɪk/ *adjective* preventing embolism

antiemetic /,ænti'metɪk/ *noun* a drug which prevents vomiting ■ *adjective* acting to prevent vomiting

antiepileptic drug /,æntieprɪ'leptɪk drʌɡ/ *noun* a drug used in the treatment of epilepsy and convulsions, e.g. carbamazepine

antifibrinolytic /,æntifaɪbrɪnɔɪ'lɪtɪk/ *adjective* acting to reduce fibrosis

antifungal /,ænti'fʌŋɡəl/ *adjective* referring to a substance which kills or controls fungal and yeast infections, e.g. candida and ringworm (NOTE: Antifungal drugs have names ending in **-conazole: fluconazole.**)

antigen /'æntɪdʒən/ *noun* a substance that stimulates the body to produce antibodies, e.g. a protein on the surface of a cell or microorganism

antigenic /,æntɪ'dʒenɪk/ *adjective* referring to a substance which stimulates the formation of antibodies

antihaemophilic factor /,æntihi:mə'fɪlɪk ,fæktə/ *noun* factor VIII, used to encourage blood-clotting in haemophiliacs. Abbreviation **AHF**

anthelmintic /,æntihel'mɪnθɪk/ *noun* a drug used in the treatment of worm infections such as threadworm, hookworm or roundworm

antihistamine /,æntɪ'hɪstəmi:n/ *noun* a drug used to control the effects of an allergy which releases histamine, or reduces gastric acid in the stomach for the treatment of gastric ulcers (NOTE: Antihistamines have names ending in **-tidine: loratidine** for allergies, **cimetidine** for gastric ulcers.)

antihypertensive /,æntihaɪpə'tensɪv/ *adjective* acting to reduce blood pressure ■ *noun* a drug used to reduce high blood pressure

anti-inflammatory /,æntɪ ɪn'flæmət(ə)ri/ *adjective* referring to a drug which reduces inflammation

antilymphocytic serum /,æntɪlmfəʊ'sɪtɪk ,sɪərəm/ *noun* a serum used to produce immunosuppression in people undergoing transplant operations. Abbreviation **ALS**

antimalarial /,æntɪmə'leəriəl/ *noun* a drug used to treat malaria and in malarial prophylaxis ■ *adjective* treating or preventing malaria

antimetabolite /,æntɪmə'tæbəlaɪt/ *noun* a substance which can replace a cell metabolism, but which is not active

antimicrobial /,æntɪmaɪ'krəʊbiəl/ *adjective* acting against microorganisms that cause disease

antimigraine /,æntɪ'maɪgreɪn/ *noun* a drug used in the treatment of migraine

antimitotic /,æntɪmaɪ'tɒtɪk/ *adjective* preventing the division of a cell by mitosis

antimuscarinic /,æntɪmaskə'rɪnɪk/ *adjective* referring to a drug which blocks acetylcholine receptors found on smooth muscle in the gut and eye

antimycotic /,æntɪmaɪ'kɒtɪk/ *adjective* destroying fungi

antinauseant /,æntɪ'nɔ:ziənt/ *adjective* referring to a drug which helps to suppress nausea

antioxidant /,æntɪ'ɒksɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* a substance which makes oxygen less damaging, e.g. in the body or in foods or plastics ○ *antioxidant vitamins*

antiperistalsis /,æntɪpərɪ'stælsɪs/ *noun* a movement in the oesophagus or intestine which causes their contents to move in the opposite direction to usual peristalsis, so leading to vomiting

antiperspirant /,æntɪ'pɜ:sp(ə)rənt/ *noun* a substance which prevents sweating ■ *adjective* preventing sweating

antipruritic /,æntɪpru'rɪtɪk/ *noun* a substance which prevents itching ■ *adjective* preventing itching

antipsychotic /,æntɪsaɪ'kɒtɪk/ *noun* a neuroleptic or major tranquilliser drug which calms disturbed people without causing sedation or confusion by blocking dopamine receptors in the brain

antipyretic /,æntɪpaɪ'retɪk/ *noun* a drug which helps to reduce a fever ■ *adjective* reducing fever

anti-Rh body /,æntɪ ɑ:r 'eɪtʃ ,bɒdi/ *noun* an antibody formed in a mother's blood in reaction to a Rhesus antigen in the blood of the fetus

antisepsis /,æntɪ'sepsɪs/ *noun* a procedure intended to prevent sepsis

antiseptic /,æntɪ'septɪk/ *adjective* preventing harmful microorganisms from spreading ○ *She gargled with an antiseptic mouthwash.* ■ *noun* a substance which prevents germs growing or spreading ○ *The nurse painted the wound with antiseptic.*

antiserum /,æntɪ'sɪərəm/ *noun* ♦ **serum** (NOTE: The plural is **antisera.**)

antisocial /,æntɪ'səʊʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to behaviour which is harmful to other people

antispasmodic /,æntɪspæz'mɒdɪk/ *noun* a drug used to prevent spasms

antitetanus serum /æntɪ'tetənəs ,sɪərəm/ *noun* a serum which protects a patient against tetanus. Abbreviation **ATS**

antithrombin /ænti'θrɒmbɪn/ *noun* a substance present in the blood which prevents clotting

antitoxic serum /,æntitɒksɪk 'sɪərəm/ *noun* an immunising agent, formed of serum taken from an animal which has developed antibodies to a disease, used to protect a person from that disease

antitoxin /,ænti'tɒksɪn/ *noun* an antibody produced by the body to counteract a poison in the body

antitragus /,ænti'treɪɡəs/ *noun* a small projection on the outer ear opposite the tragus

antitussive /,ænti'tʌsɪv/ *noun* a drug used to reduce coughing

antivenin /,ænti'venɪn/, **antivenom** /,ænti'venəm/, **antivenene** /,æntivə'ni:n/ *noun* a substance which helps the body to fight the effects of a particular venom from a snake or insect bite

antiviral /,ænti'vaɪrəl/ *adjective* referring to a drug or treatment which stops or reduces the damage caused by a virus ■ *noun* same as **antiviral drug**

antiviral drug /,ænti'vaɪrəl drʌɡ/ *noun* a drug which is effective against a virus (NOTE: Antiviral drugs have names ending in **-ciclovir**.)

antral /'æntərəl/ *adjective* referring to an antrum

antrectomy /æn'trektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of an antrum in the stomach to prevent gastrin being formed

antroscoy /æn'trɒskəpi/ *noun* an examination of an antrum

antrostomy /æn'trɒstəmi/ *noun* a surgical operation to make an opening in the maxillary sinus to drain an antrum

antrum /'æntərəm/ *noun* any cavity inside the body, especially one in bone (NOTE: The plural is **antra**.)

anuria /æn'juəriə/ *noun* a condition in which the patient does not make urine, either because of a deficiency in the kidneys or because the urinary tract is blocked

anus /'eɪnəs/ *noun* a short passage after the rectum at the end of the alimentary canal, leading outside the body between the buttocks and through which faeces are passed. See illustration at **DIGESTIVE SYSTEM** in Supplement, **UROGENITAL SYSTEM (MALE)** in Supplement (NOTE: For other terms referring to the anus, see **anal** and words beginning with **ano-**.)

anvil /'ænvɪl/ *noun* same as **incus**

anxiety /æŋ'zaɪəti/ *noun* the state of being very worried and afraid

anxiety disorder /æŋ'zaɪəti dɪs'ɔ:də/ *noun* a mental disorder where someone is very worried and afraid, e.g. a phobia

anxiety neurosis /æŋ'zaɪəti nju,rəʊsɪs/ *noun* a neurotic condition where the patient is anxious and has morbid fears

anxiolytic /,æŋksɪə'ltɪk/ *noun* a drug used in the treatment of anxiety ■ *adjective* treating anxiety

aorta /eɪ'ɔ:tə/ *noun* the main artery in the body, which sends blood containing oxygen from the heart to other blood vessels around the body. See illustration at **HEART** in Supplement

aortic /eɪ'ɔ:tɪk/ *adjective* relating to the aorta

aortic aneurysm /eɪ'ɔ:tɪk ,ænjə'rɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a serious aneurysm of the aorta, associated with atherosclerosis

aortitis /,eɪɔ:'taɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the aorta

aortography /,eɪɔ:'tɒgrəfi/ *noun* an X-ray examination of the aorta after an opaque substance has been injected into it

apathetic /,æpə'tetɪk/ *adjective* referring to a person who takes no interest in anything

apathy /'æpəθi/ *noun* the condition of not being interested in anything, or of not wanting to do anything

aperient /ə'pɪəriənt/ *noun* a substance which causes a bowel movement, e.g. a laxative or purgative ■ *adjective* causing a bowel movement

aperistalsis /,eɪpərɪ'stælsɪs/ *noun* a lack of the peristaltic movement in the bowel

Apert's syndrome /'æpɜ:ts ,sɪndrəʊm/ *noun* a condition in which the skull grows tall and the lower part of the face is underdeveloped

aperture /'æpətʃə/ *noun* a hole

apex /'eɪpeks/ *noun* 1. the top of the heart or lung 2. the end of the root of a tooth

Apgar score /'æpgɑ: skɔ:/ *noun* a method of judging the condition of a newborn baby in which the baby is given a maximum of two points on each of five criteria: colour of the skin, heartbeat, breathing, muscle tone and reaction to stimuli [Described 1952. After Virginia Apgar (1909–74), US anaesthesiologist.]

APH *abbreviation* antepartum haemorrhage

aphagia /eɪ'feɪdʒɪə/ *noun* a condition in which a person is unable to swallow

aphakia /eɪ'feɪkɪə/ *noun* the absence of the crystalline lens in the eye

aphakic /eɪ'feɪkɪk/ *adjective* referring to aphakia

aphasia /eɪ'feɪziə/ *noun* a condition in which a person is unable to speak or write, or to understand speech or writing because of damage to the brain centres controlling speech

aphonia /eɪ'fəʊniə/ *noun* a condition in which a person is unable to make sounds

aphrodisiac /,æfrə'dɪziæk/ *noun* a substance which increases sexual urges ■ *adjective* increasing sexual desire

aphtha /'æfθə/ *noun* a small white ulcer which appears in groups in the mouth in people who have the fungal condition thrush (NOTE: The plural is **apthae**.)

aphthous stomatitis /'æfθəs, stəʊmə'taɪtɪs/ *noun* canker sores which affect the mucous membrane in the mouth

apical /'æpɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* situated at the top or tip of something

apical abscess /'æpɪk(ə)l 'æbses/ *noun* an abscess in the socket around the root of a tooth

apicectomy /'æpɪ'sektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of the root of a tooth

aplasia /eɪ'pleɪziə/ *noun* a lack of growth of tissue

aplastic /eɪ'plæstɪk/ *adjective* unable to develop new cells or tissue

aplastic anaemia /eɪ,plæstɪk ə'ni:miə/ *noun* anaemia caused by the bone marrow failing to form red blood cells

apnea /æp'ni:ə/ *noun* US same as **apnoea**

apnoea /æp'ni:ə/ *noun* the stopping of breathing (NOTE: The US spelling is **apnea**.)

apnoeic /æp'ni:ɪk/ *adjective* where breathing has stopped

apocrine /'æpəkreɪn/ *adjective* referring to apocrine glands

apocrine gland /'æpəkreɪn glænd/ *noun* a gland producing body odour where parts of the gland's cells break off with the secretions, e.g. a sweat gland

apocrinitis /'æpəkrɪ'naɪtɪs/ *noun* the formation of abscesses in the sweat glands

apomorphine /'æpəʊ'mɔ:fi:n/ *noun* a substance that comes from morphine, used to make a person cough, sleep or be sick (NOTE: It is administered under the skin and is used to treat drug overdose, accidental poisoning and Parkinson's disease.)

aponeurosis /'æpəʊnju'rəʊsɪs/ *noun* a band of tissue which attaches muscles to each other

apophyseal /æpə'fɪziəl/ *adjective* referring to apophysis

apophysis /ə'pɒfəsɪs/ *noun* a growth of bone, not at a joint

apophysitis /æpəfɪ'saɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of an apophysis

apoplexy /'æpəpleksi/ *noun* same as **cerebrovascular accident** (dated)

apoptosis /ə'pɒptəʊsɪs/ *noun* a form of cell death that is necessary both to make room for new cells and to remove cells whose DNA has been damaged and which may become cancerous

appendage /ə'pendɪdʒ/ *noun* a part of the body or piece of tissue which hangs down from another part

appendiceal /'æpən'dɪsiəl/ *adjective* relating to the appendix ○ *There is a risk of appendiceal infection.*

appendectomy /ə'pendɪ'sektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of an appendix

appendicitis /ə'pendɪ'saɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the vermiform appendix

appendicular /'æpən'dɪkjələ/ *adjective* **1.** referring to body parts which are associated with the arms and legs **2.** relating to the appendix

appendicular skeleton /'æpən,dɪkjələ 'skelɪt(ə)n/ *noun* part of the skeleton, formed of the pelvic girdle, pectoral girdle and the bones of the arms and legs. Compare **axial skeleton**

appendix /ə'pendɪks/ *noun* **1.** a small tube attached to the caecum which serves no function but can become infected, causing appendicitis. Also called **vermiform appendix**. See illustration at **DIGESTIVE SYSTEM** in Supplement **2.** any small tube or sac hanging from an organ

apperception /'æpə'sepʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the conscious recognition of a stimulus

appetite /'æpɪtaɪt/ *noun* the feeling of wanting food

applanation tonometry /æplə'neɪf(ə)n tə 'nɒmətri/ *noun* the measuring of the thickness of the cornea

appliance /ə'plaɪəns/ *noun* a piece of apparatus used on the body ○ *He was wearing a surgical appliance to support his neck.*

applicator /'æplɪkeɪtə/ *noun* an instrument for applying a substance

apposition /'æpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the relative positioning of two things **2.** cell growth in which layers of new material are deposited on existing ones

appraisal /ə'preɪz(ə)l/ *noun* a judgment or opinion on something or somebody, especially one which decides how effective or useful they are

apprehension /'æprɪ'henʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a feeling of anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen

apraxia /eɪ'præksɪə/ *noun* a condition in which someone is unable to make proper movements

apyrexia /'eɪpaɪ'reksɪə/ *noun* the absence of fever

apyrexial /'eɪpaɪ'reksɪəl/ *adjective* no longer having any fever

aqua /'ækwə/ *noun* water

aqueduct /'ækwɪdʌkt/ *noun* a tube which carries fluid from one part of the body to another

aqueous /'erkwiəs, 'ækwɪəs/ *adjective* referring to a solution made with water ■ *noun* a fluid in the eye between the lens and the cornea

aqueous humour /'erkwiəs 'hju:mə/ *noun* same as **aqueous**. See illustration at **EYE** in Supplement

AR *abbreviation* attributable risk

arachidonic acid /ə,rækɪdɒnɪk 'æsɪd/ *noun* an essential fatty acid

arachnodactyly /ə,ræknəʊ'dæktɪli/ *noun* a congenital condition in which the fingers and toes are long and thin

arachnoid /ə'ræknoɪd/ *noun* the middle of the three membranes covering the brain. ♂ **dura mater**

arachnoiditis /ə,ræknoɪ'daɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the arachnoid

arachnoid mater /ə,ræknoɪd 'meɪtə/, **arachnoid membrane** /ə'ræknoɪd 'membreɪn/ *noun* same as **arachnoid**

arachnoid villi /ə,ræknoɪd 'vɪlaɪ/ *plural noun* villi in the arachnoid which absorb cerebrospinal fluid

arborisation /,ɑ:bəraɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **arborization** *noun* the branching ends of some nerve fibres, of a motor nerve in muscle fibre or of venules, capillaries and arterioles

arbovirus /'ɑ:bəvaɪrəs/ *noun* a virus transmitted by blood-sucking insects

arc /ɑ:k/ *noun* a nerve pathway

ARC *abbreviation* AIDS-related complex or AIDS-related condition

arch /ɑ:tʃ/ *noun* a curved part of the body, especially under the foot

arch- /ɑ:tʃ/ *prefix* chief, most important

arcuate /'ɑ:kjuət/ *adjective* arched

arcuate artery /'ɑ:kjuət ,ɑ:təri/ *noun* a curved artery in the foot or kidney

arcuate ligaments /'ɑ:kjuət ,ɑ:təri/ *plural noun* three ligaments forming a fibrous arch to which the diaphragm is attached

arcus /'ɑ:kəs/ *noun* an arch

arcus senilis /,ɑ:kəs sə'nailɪs/ *noun* an opaque circle around the cornea of the eye which can develop in old age

ARDS /ɑ:dz/ *abbreviation* adult respiratory distress syndrome

areola /ə'ri:ələ/ *noun* the coloured part round a nipple

areolar tissue /ə'ri:ələ ,tɪʃu:/ *noun* a type of connective tissue

arginine /'ɑ:dʒɪni:n/ *noun* an amino acid which helps the liver form urea

Argyll Robertson pupil /ɑ:gaɪl 'rɒbətsən ,pju:p(ə)l/ *noun* a condition of the eye, in which the lens is able to focus but the pupil does not react to light. It is a symptom of tertiary syphilis or of locomotor ataxia.

ariboflavinosis /eɪ,raɪbəʊfleɪnɪ'nəʊsɪs/ *noun* a condition caused by not having enough vitamin B₂. The symptoms are very oily skin and hair and small cuts in the mouth.

Arnold-Chiari malformation /,ɑ:nəld ki 'eəri mælfɔːmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a congenital condition in which the base of the skull is malformed, allowing parts of the cerebellum into the spinal canal [Described 1894. After Julius A. Arnold (1835–1915), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Heidelberg, Germany, and Hans von Chiari (1851–1916), Professor of Pathological Anatomy at Strasbourg and later at Prague, Czech Republic.]

aromatherapy /ə,rəʊmə'therəpi/ *noun* treatment to relieve tension and promote wellbeing in which fragrant oils and creams containing plant extracts are massaged into the skin

arousal /ə'raʊz(ə)l/ *noun* 1. feelings and physical signs of sexual desire 2. the act of waking up from sleep, unconsciousness or a drowsy state

arrector pili /ə,rektə 'paɪlaɪ ,mæs(ə)l/ *noun* a small muscle which contracts and makes the hair on the skin stand up when someone is cold or afraid

arrest /ə'rest/ *noun* the stopping of a bodily function. ♂ **cardiac arrest**

arrhythmia /ə'riðmiə/ *noun* a variation in the rhythm of the heartbeat

arsenic /'ɑ:snɪk/ *noun* a chemical element which forms poisonous compounds such as arsenic trioxide and which was formerly used in some medicines (NOTE: The chemical symbol is As.)

artefact /'ɑ:tɪfækt/ *noun* something which is made or introduced artificially

arter- /ɑ:tə/ *prefix* same as **arterio-** (used before vowels)

arterial /ɑ:'tɪəriəl/ *adjective* relating to arteries

arterial haemorrhage /ɑ:,tɪəriəl 'hem(ə)rɪdʒ/ *noun* a haemorrhage of bright red blood from an artery

arteriectomy /ɑ:,tɪəri'ektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of an artery or part of an artery

arterio- /ɑ:tɪəriəʊ/ *prefix* referring to arteries

arteriogram /ɑ:'tɪəriəʊgrəm/ *noun* an X-ray photograph of an artery, taken after injection with an opaque dye

arteriography /ɑ:,tɪəri'ɒgrəfi/ *noun* the work of taking X-ray photographs of arteries after injection with an opaque dye

arteriole /ɑ:'tɪəriəʊl/ *noun* a very small artery

arteriopathy /ɑ:,tɪəri'ɒpəθi/ *noun* a disease of an artery

arterioplasty /ɑ:'tɪəriəʊplæsti/ *noun* plastic surgery to make good a damaged or blocked artery

arteriorrhaphy /ɑ:,tɪəri'ɔ:rəfi/ *noun* the act of stitching an artery

arteriosclerosis /ɑ:,tɪəriəʊsklə'rəʊsɪs/ *noun* the arterial disease atherosclerosis (dated)

arteriotomy /ɑːtɪərɪ'ɒtəmi/ *noun* a puncture made in the wall of an artery

arteriovenous /ɑːtɪərɪəu'viːnəs/ *adjective* referring to both an artery and a vein

arteritis /ɑːtə'reɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the walls of an artery

artery /'ɑːtəri/ *noun* a blood vessel taking blood from the heart to the tissues of the body

arthr- /ɑːθr/ *prefix* same as **arthro-** (used before vowels)

arthralgia /ɑː'θrældʒə/ *noun* pain in a joint

arthrectomy /ɑː'θrektəmi/ *noun* the surgical removal of a joint

arthritic /ɑː'θrɪtɪk/ *adjective* affected by or relating to arthritis ○ *She has an arthritic hip.* ■ *noun* a person suffering from arthritis

arthritis /ɑː'θraɪtɪs/ *noun* a painful inflammation of a joint. ♂ **osteoarthritis**, **rheumatoid arthritis**

arthro- /ɑːθrəu/ *prefix* referring to a joint

arthroclasia /ɑːθrəu'kleɪzə/ *noun* removal of ankylosis in a joint

arthrodesis /ɑːθrəu'diːsɪs/ *noun* a surgical operation in which a joint is fused in position, so preventing pain from movement

arthrodynia /ɑːθrəu'dɪniə/ *noun* pain in a joint

arthrography /ɑː'θrɒgrəfi/ *noun* X-ray photography of a joint

arthrogryposis /ɑːθrəʊgrɪ'pəʊsɪs/ *noun* a group of disorders in which movement becomes progressively restricted

arthropathy /ɑː'θrɒpəθi/ *noun* a disease in a joint

arthroplasty /'ɑːθrəʊplæsti/ *noun* a surgical operation to repair or replace a joint

arthroscope /'ɑːθrəʊskəʊp/ *noun* an instrument which is inserted into the cavity of a joint to inspect it

arthroscopy /ɑː'θrɒskəpi/ *noun* a procedure to examine the inside of a joint by means of an arthroscope

arthrosis /ɑː'θrəʊsɪs/ *noun* the degeneration of a joint

arthrotomy /ɑː'θrɒtəmi/ *noun* a procedure that involves cutting into a joint to drain pus

articular /ɑː'tɪkjʊlə/ *adjective* referring to joints

articular cartilage /ɑː'tɪkjʊlə 'kɑːtəlɪdʒ/ *noun* a layer of cartilage at the end of a bone where it forms a joint with another bone. See illustration at **BONE STRUCTURE** in Supplement, **SYNOVIAL JOINT** in Supplement

articulate /ɑː'tɪkjʊləɪt/ *verb* to be linked with another bone in a joint

articulation /ɑː'tɪkjʊ'leɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a joint or series of joints

artificial /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l/ *adjective* 1. made by humans and not a natural part of the body ○ **artificial cartilage** ○ **artificial kidney** ○ **artificial leg** 2. happening not as a natural process but through action by a doctor or another person or a machine ○ **artificial feeding**

artificial insemination /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l ɪn'seɪmɪ'neɪf(ə)n/ *noun* the introduction of semen into a woman's uterus by artificial means

artificial insemination by donor /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l ɪn'seɪmɪ'neɪf(ə)n baɪ 'dɒnə/ *noun* same as **donor insemination**. Abbreviation **AID**

artificial insemination by husband /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l ɪn'seɪmɪ'neɪf(ə)n baɪ 'hʌzbənd/ *noun* artificial insemination using the semen of the husband. Abbreviation **AIH**

artificial lung /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l 'lʌŋ/ *noun* a machine through which a person's deoxygenated blood is passed to absorb oxygen to take back to the bloodstream

artificial respiration /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l ,respɪ'reɪf(ə)n/ *noun* a way of reviving someone who has stopped breathing, e.g. mouth-to-mouth resuscitation

artificial rupture of membranes /ɑːtɪfɪʃ(ə)l ,rʌptʃə əv 'membreɪnz/ *noun* the breaking of the amniotic sac with an amnihook, so releasing the amniotic fluid

arytenoid /æri'tiːnɔɪd/ *adjective* located at the back of the larynx

arytenoid cartilage /æri'tiːnɔɪd ,kɑːtɪlɪdʒ/ *noun* a small cartilage at the back of the larynx

arytenoidectomy /æri'tiːnɔɪd'ektəmi/ *noun* an operation to remove the arytenoid cartilage

asbestosis /æsbə'stəʊsɪs/ *noun* a disease of the lungs caused by inhaling asbestos dust

ascariasis /æskə'raɪəsɪs/ *noun* a disease of the intestine and sometimes the lungs, caused by infestation with *Ascaris lumbricoides*

Ascaris lumbricoides /æskə'ris lʌmbri'kɔɪdiːz/ *noun* a type of large roundworm which is a parasite in the human intestine

ascending aorta /ə'sendɪŋ eɪ'ɔːtə/ *noun* the first section of the aorta as it leaves the heart and turns upwards. Compare **descending aorta**

ascending colon /ə'sendɪŋ 'kəʊlən/ *noun* the first part of the colon which goes up the right side of the body from the caecum. Compare **descending colon**. See illustration at **DIGESTIVE SYSTEM** in Supplement

Aschoff nodules /'æʃɒf ,nɒdjuːlz/, **Aschoff's nodules** /'æʃɒfs ,nɒdjuːlz/ *plural noun* nodules which are formed mainly in or near the heart in rheumatic fever

ascites /ə'saɪtiːz/ *noun* an unusual accumulation of fluid from the blood in the peritoneal cavity, occurring in heart and kidney failure or as a result of malignancy

ascorbic acid /əˌskɔːbrɪk 'æsɪd/ *noun* same as **Vitamin C**

ASD *abbreviation* autistic spectrum disorders

-ase /eɪz, eɪs/ *suffix* enzyme

asepsis /eɪ'sepsɪs/ *noun* the absence of micro-organisms which cause infection, usually achieved by sterilisation

aseptic /eɪ'septɪk/ *adjective* sterilised, or involving sterilisation, and therefore without infection

aseptic technique /eɪ'septɪk tek'niːks/ *noun* a method of doing something using sterilised equipment

asexual /eɪ'sekʃuəl/ *adjective* not sexual, not involving sexual intercourse

Asian flu /ˌeɪʒ(ə)n 'fluː/ *noun* ▶ **flu**

-asis /ə'sɪs/ ▶ **-iasis**

asparagine /ə'spærədʒiːn/ *noun* an amino acid

aspartame /ə'spɑːteɪm/ *noun* a protein produced from aspartic acid, used to make substances sweeter

aspartate aminotransferase /ə'spɑːteɪt ə'mɪnəʊ'trænsfəreɪz/ *noun* an enzyme found in heart muscle, liver cells, skeletal muscle cells and some other tissues. It is used in the diagnosis of liver disease and heart attacks.

aspartic acid /ə'spɑːtɪk 'æsɪd/ *noun* an amino acid

aspect /'æspekt/ *noun* a direction from which the body is viewed, e.g. the view from above is the 'superior aspect'

Asperger's syndrome /'æspɜːdʒəzˌsɪndrəm/ *noun* a developmental disorder characterised by difficulty in social interaction and a restricted range of interests, more common in boys than girls [Described 1944. After Hans Asperger (1906–80), Austrian psychiatrist.]

aspergillosis /ˌæspɜːdʒɪ'ləʊsɪs/ *noun* infection of the lungs with the fungus *Aspergillus*

aspermia /eɪ'spɜːmiə/ *noun* the absence of sperm in semen

asphyxia /əs'fɪksiə/ *noun* a condition in which someone is prevented from breathing, e.g. by strangulation or breathing poisonous gas, and therefore cannot take oxygen into the bloodstream

asphyxiation /əs'fɪksi'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the state of being prevented from breathing, or the act of preventing someone from breathing. ▶ **suffocation**

aspiration /ˌæspɪ'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. the act of removing fluid from a cavity in the body, often using a hollow needle 2. same as **vacuum suction**

aspirator /'æspɪreɪtə/ *noun* an instrument used to suck fluid out of a cavity such as the mouth or the site of an operation

aspirin /'æsprɪn/ *noun* a common pain-killing drug, or a tablet containing this drug. Also called **acetylsalicylic acid**

assay /'æsɪ, ə'seɪ/ *noun* the testing of a substance. ▶ **bioassay**, **immunoassay**

assessment /ə'sesmənt/ *noun* 1. a judgment about something ○ *Further treatment will be based on your doctor's assessment of your condition.* 2. a method of deciding whether a student is learning and progressing well ○ *continuous assessment*

assimilation /ə'sɪmɪ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the action of assimilating food substances

assisted suicide /ə'sɪstɪd 'suːsaɪd/ *noun* the suicide of someone who is terminally ill with the help of a doctor or friend at the request of the person who is dying

associate /ə'səʊsɪət/ *verb* to be related to or connected with something ○ *side effects which may be associated with the drug* ○ *The condition is often associated with diabetes.*

associate nurse /ə'səʊsɪət 'nɜːs/ *noun* a nurse who assists a primary nurse by carrying out agreed care for someone based on a plan designed by a primary nurse

asthenia /æs'θɪːniə/ *noun* a condition in which someone is weak and does not have any strength

asthenic /æs'θenɪk/ *adjective* referring to a general condition in which someone has no strength and no interest in things

asthenopia /ˌæsθɪ'nəʊpiə/ *noun* same as **eye-strain**

asthma /'æsmə/ *noun* a lung condition characterised by narrowing of the bronchial tubes, in which the muscles go into spasm and the person has difficulty breathing. ▶ **cardiac asthma**

asthmatic /æs'mætɪk/ *adjective* having the lung disease asthma, or relating to asthma ○ *He has an asthmatic attack every spring.* ■ *noun* a person who has asthma

asthmaticus /æs'mætɪkəs/ *adjective* ▶ **status asthmaticus**

astigmatism /ə'stɪgmətɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a condition in which the eye cannot focus vertical and horizontal lines simultaneously, leading to blurring of vision

astringent /ə'strɪndʒənt/ *noun* a substance which makes the skin tissues contract and harden ■ *adjective* referring to an astringent

astrocyte /'æstrəsaɪt/ *noun* a star-shaped cell of the connective tissue of the nervous system

astrocytoma /ˌæstrəsaɪ'təʊmə/ *noun* a type of brain tumour which develops slowly in the connective tissue of the nervous system

asymmetric /ˌæsɪ'metɪk/ *adjective* shaped or arranged so that the two sides do not match or balance each other

asymmetry /æ'sɪmətri/ *noun* a state in which the two sides of the body or of an organ do not resemble each other

asymptomatic /,eɪsɪmptə'mætɪk/ *adjective* not showing any symptoms of disease

asynclitism /æ'sɪŋklɪtɪz(ə)m/ *noun* in childbirth, a situation in which the head of the baby enters the vagina at an angle

asynergia /,æsi'nɜːdʒə/, **asynergy** /æ'sɪnədʒi/ *noun* awkward movements and bad coordination, caused by a disorder of the cerebellum. Also called **dyssynergia**

asystole /eɪ'sɪstəli/ *noun* a state in which the heart has stopped beating

ataractic /,ætə'ræktɪk/ *noun* a drug which has a calming effect ■ *adjective* calming

ataraxia /,ætə'ræksɪə/, **ataraxis** /,ætə'ræksɪs/ *noun* the state of being calm and not worrying

ataraxic /,ætə'ræksɪk/ *noun, adjective* same as **ataractic**

ataxia /ə'tæksɪə/ *noun* a failure of the brain to control movements

ataxic /ə'tæksɪk/ *adjective* having ataxia, or relating to ataxia

ataxic gait /ə'tæksɪk 'geɪt/ *noun* a way of walking in which the person walks unsteadily due to a disorder of the nervous system

ataxy /ə'tæksɪ/ *noun* same as **ataxia**

atelectasis /,ætə'lektəsis/ *noun* the failure of a lung to expand properly

atenolol /ə'tenənl/ *noun* a drug used in controlling blood pressure and angina

ateriovenous malformation /ɑːtɪəriəv 'vɪnəs mælfɔːmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a condition in which the arteries and veins in the brain are not properly formed, leading to strokes or epilepsy. Abbreviation **AVM**

atherogenic /,æθərəʊ'dʒenɪk/ *adjective* referring to something which may produce atheroma

atheroma /,æθə'rəʊmə/ *noun* thickening of the walls of an artery by deposits of a fatty substance such as cholesterol

atheromatous /,æθə'rəʊmətəs/ *adjective* referring to atheroma

atherosclerosis /,æθərəʊsklə'rəʊsɪs/ *noun* a condition in which deposits of fats and minerals form on the walls of an artery, especially the aorta or one of the coronary or cerebral arteries, and prevent blood from flowing easily

atherosclerotic /,æθərəʊsklə'rɒtɪk/ *adjective* referring to atherosclerosis

athetosis /,æθə'təʊsɪs/ *noun* repeated slow movements of the limbs, caused by a brain disorder such as cerebral palsy

athlete's foot /,æθli:t 'fʊt/ *noun* an infectious skin disorder between the toes, caused by a fungus. Also called **tinea pedis**

atlas /'ætɫəs/ *noun* the top vertebra in the spine, which supports the skull and pivots on the axis or second vertebra

atom /'ætəm/ *noun* the smallest part into which an element can be divided and still keep its properties. It consists of a dense, positively charged nucleus surrounded by a system of electrons.

atomiser /'ætəmaɪzə/ *noun* an instrument which sprays liquid in the form of very small drops like mist. Also called **nebuliser**

atony /'ætəni/ *noun* a lack of tone or tension in the muscles

atopen /'ætəpen/ *noun* an allergen which causes an atopy

atopic eczema /eɪ,tɒpɪk 'eksɪmə/, **atopic dermatitis** /eɪ,tɒpɪk dɜːmə'taɪtɪs/ *noun* a type of eczema often caused by a hereditary allergy

atopy /'ætəpi/ *noun* a hereditary allergic reaction

ATP *abbreviation* adenosine triphosphate

atracurium /,ætrə'kjʊəriəm/ *noun* a drug used as a relaxant

atresia /ə'triːziə/ *noun* an unusual closing or absence of a tube in the body

atretic /ə'tretɪk/ *adjective* referring to atresia

atri- /eɪtri/ *prefix* referring to an atrium

atrial /'eɪtriəl/ *adjective* referring to one or both of the atria of the heart

atrial fibrillation /,eɪtriəl faɪbrɪ'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a rapid uncoordinated fluttering of the atria of the heart, which causes an irregular heartbeat

atrioventricular /,eɪtriəʊven'trɪkjʊlə/ *adjective* referring to the atria and ventricles

atrioventricular bundle /,eɪtriəʊven 'trɪkjʊlə 'bʌnd(ə)l/ *noun* a bundle of modified cardiac muscle which conducts impulses from the atrioventricular node to the septum and then divides to connect with the ventricles. Also called **AV bundle, bundle of His**

atrioventricular node /,eɪtriəʊven'trɪkjʊlə 'nɒd/ *noun* a mass of conducting tissue in the right atrium of the heart, which continues as the atrioventricular bundle and passes impulses from the atria to the ventricles. Also called **AV node**

at-risk /ət 'rɪsk/ *adjective* exposed to danger or harm of some kind ○ *at-risk children*

atrium /'eɪtriəm/ *noun* one of the two upper chambers in the heart. See illustration at **HEART** in Supplement

atrophic cirrhosis /æ,tɹɒfɪk sɪ'rəʊsɪs/ *noun* advanced portal cirrhosis in which the liver has become considerably smaller and clumps of new cells are formed on the surface of the liver where fibrous tissue has replaced damaged liver cells. Also called **hobnail liver**

atrophy /'ætɹəfi/ *noun* the wasting of an organ or part of the body ■ *verb* (of an organ or part of the body) to waste away

atropine /'ætrəpi:n/ *noun* an alkaloid substance derived from the poisonous plant belladonna and used, among other things, to enlarge the pupil of the eye, to reduce salivary and bronchial secretions during anaesthesia and as a muscarinic antagonist

ATS *abbreviation* antitetanus serum

attack /ə'tæk/ *noun* a sudden occurrence of an illness ○ *He had an attack of fever.* ○ *She had two attacks of laryngitis during the winter.*

attention deficit disorder /ə'tenʃən 'defɪsɪt dɪs,ɔ:də/ *noun* a condition in which a person is unable to concentrate, does things without considering their actions properly and has little confidence. It occurs mainly in children. *Abbreviation* ADD

attention deficit hyperactivity disorder /ə'tenʃən 'defɪsɪt ˌhaɪpə'rek'tɪvɪtɪ dɪs,ɔ:də/ *noun* a condition in which a child has an inability to concentrate and shows disruptive behaviour. *Abbreviation* ADHD

attention deficit syndrome /ə'tenʃən 'defɪsɪt 'sɪndrəʊm/ *noun* same as **attention deficit disorder**

attenuation /ə'tenʃu'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a reduction in the effect or strength of something such as a virus, either because of environmental conditions or as a result of a laboratory procedure

atticotomy /ˌætɪ'kɒtəmi/ *noun* the removal of the wall in the inner ear. Also called **cortical mastoidectomy**

attitude /'ætɪtju:d/ *noun* 1. an opinion or general feeling about something ○ *a positive attitude towards the operation* 2. a way of standing or sitting

attributable risk /ə'trɪbjʊtəb(ə)l 'rɪsk/ *noun* a measure of the excess risk of disease due to exposure to a particular risk. The excess risk of bacteriuria in oral contraceptive users attributable to the use of oral contraceptives is 1,566 per 100,000. *Abbreviation* AR

atypical /eɪ'tɪpɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* not usual or expected ○ *an atypical renal cyst*

audio- /ɔ:diəʊ/ *prefix* referring to hearing or sound

audiogram /ɔ:diəgræm/ *noun* a graph drawn by an audiometer

audiologist /ɔ:di'blɒdʒɪst/ *noun* a specialist who deals in the treatment of hearing disorders

audiology /ɔ:di'blɒdʒi/ *noun* the scientific study of hearing, especially for diagnosing and treating hearing loss

audiometer /ɔ:di'bɒmɪtə/ *noun* an apparatus for testing hearing, especially for testing the range of sounds that the human ear can detect

audiometry /ɔ:di'bɒmətri/ *noun* the science of testing hearing

audit /'ɔ:dt/ *noun* a check on figures, scientific data or procedures ○ *a medical audit regarding the outpatient appointment system*

audit commission /'ɔ:dt kə,mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a government body which examines the accounts of public bodies such as hospital trusts to ensure that public money is being spent wisely

audit cycle /'ɔ:dt ˌsaɪk(ə)l/ *noun* the cycle in which medical topics are selected for review, observation and comparison with agreed standards and changes are decided on

auditory /'ɔ:dt(ə)ri/ *adjective* relating to hearing

auditory acuity /ɔ:dt(ə)ri ə'kju:ɪti/ *noun* the ability to hear sounds clearly

auditory canals /ɔ:dt(ə)ri kə'nælz/ *plural noun* the external and internal passages of the ear

auditory nerve /'ɔ:dt(ə)ri nɜ:v/ *noun* the eighth cranial nerve which governs hearing and balance. See illustration at **EAR** in Supplement. Also called **vestibulocochlear nerve**

auditory ossicles /ɔ:dt(ə)ri 'ɒsɪk(ə)lz/ *plural noun* the three little bones, the malleus, incus and stapes, in the middle ear

Auerbach's plexus /ˌauərbɑ:ks 'pleksəs/ *noun* a group of nerve fibres in the intestine wall [Described 1862. After Leopold Auerbach (1828–97), Professor of Neuropathology at Breslau, now in Poland.]

aura /'ɔ:rə/ *noun* a warning sensation which is experienced before an attack of epilepsy, migraine or asthma

aural /'ɔ:rəl/ *adjective* referring to the ear

auricle /'ɔ:ɹɪk(ə)l/ *noun* the tip of each atrium in the heart

auricular /ɔ:'rɪkjʊlə/ *adjective* referring to the ear

auricular vein /ɔ:'rɪkjʊlə veɪn/ *noun* a vein which leads into the posterior facial vein

auriscope /'ɔ:ɹɪskəʊp/ *noun* an instrument for examining the ear and eardrum. Also called **otoscope**

auscultation /ɔ:skʌl'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of listening to the sounds of the body using a stethoscope

auscultatory /ɔ:'skʌltət(ə)ri/ *adjective* referring to auscultation

Australia antigen /ɔ:'streɪliə ˌæntɪdʒən/ *noun* an antigen produced on the surface of liver cells infected with the hepatitis B virus

autism /'ɔ:tɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a condition developing in childhood, characterised by difficulty in social interaction, language and communication problems, learning difficulties and obsessional repetitive behaviour (NOTE: Autism is more common in boys than in girls.)

autistic /ɔ:'tɪstɪk/ *adjective* affected by, or relating to, autism

autistic spectrum disorders /ɔːtɪstɪk ˌspektrəm dɪs'ɔːdəz/ *plural noun* autism in all its different forms and degrees of severity. Abbreviation **ASD**

auto- /ɔːtəʊ/ *prefix* self

autoantibody /ɔːtəʊ'æntɪbɒdi/ *noun* an antibody formed to attack antigens in the body's own cells

autoclave /ɔːtəʊkleɪv/ *noun* equipment for sterilising surgical instruments using heat under high pressure ■ *verb* to sterilise equipment using heat under high pressure ○ *Autoclaving is the best method of sterilisation.*

autogenous /ɔː'tɒdʒənəs/, **autogenic** /ɔːtəʊ'dʒenɪk/ *adjective* produced either in the person's body, or using tissue from the person's own body ○ *an autogenous vein graft*

autograft /ɔːtəgrɑːft/ *noun* a transplant made using parts of the person's own body

autoimmune /ɔːtəʊ'mjuːn/ *adjective* referring to an immune reaction in a person against antigens in their own cells

autoimmune disease /ɔːtəʊ'mjuːn dɪ'ziːz/ *noun* a disease in which the person's own cells are attacked by autoantibodies ○ *Rheumatoid arthritis is thought to be an autoimmune disease.*

autoimmunisation /ɔːtəʊ'ɪmjʊnəɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/, **autoimmunization** *noun* the process leading to an immune reaction in a person to antigens produced in their own body

autoimmunity /ɔːtəʊ'mjuːnɪti/ *noun* a condition in which a person's own cells are attacked by autoantibodies

autoinfection /ɔːtəʊɪn'fekʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an infection by a microorganism already in the body, or infection of one part of the body by another part

autointoxication /ɔːtəʊɪntɒksɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the poisoning of the body by toxins produced in the body itself

autologous /ɔː'tɒləgəs/ *adjective* referring to a graft or other material coming from the same source

autolysis /ɔː'tɒləsɪs/ *noun* a situation in which cells destroy themselves with their own enzymes

automatism /ɔː'tɒmətɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a state in which a person acts without consciously knowing that he or she is acting

autonomic /ɔːtə'nɒmɪk/ *adjective* governing itself independently

autonomic nervous system /ɔːtə'nɒmɪk 'nɜːvəs ˌsɪstəm/ *noun* the nervous system formed of ganglia linked to the spinal column. It regulates the automatic functioning of the main organs such as the heart and lungs and works when a person is asleep or even unconscious. ♀

parasympathetic nervous system, sympathetic nervous system

autonomy /ɔː'tɒnəmi/ *noun* the state of being free to act as one wishes

autoplasty /ɔːtəʊplæsti/ *noun* the repair of someone's body using tissue taken from another part of their body

autopsy /ɔːtɒpsi/ *noun* the examination of a dead body by a pathologist to find out the cause of death ○ *The autopsy showed that he had been poisoned.* Also called **post mortem**

autosomal /ɔːtəʊ'səʊm(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to an autosome

autosome /ɔːtəʊsəʊm/ *noun* a chromosome that is not a sex chromosome

autotransfusion /ɔːtəʊtræns'fjuːʒ(ə)n/ *noun* an infusion into a person of their own blood

avascular /eɪ'væskjʊlə/ *adjective* with no blood vessels, or with a deficient blood supply

AV bundle /eɪ 'viː 'bʌnd(ə)l/ *noun* same as **atrioventricular bundle**

aversion therapy /ə'vɜːʃ(ə)n ˌθerəpi/ *noun* a treatment by which someone is cured of a type of behaviour by making him or her develop a great dislike for it

avitaminosis /eɪ,vɪtə'mɪ'nəʊsɪs/ *noun* a disorder caused by a lack of vitamins

AVM *abbreviation* arteriovenous malformation

AV node /eɪ 'viː nɒd/ *noun* same as **atrioventricular node**

AVPU /eɪ viː piː 'juː/ *noun* a method of rating if a person is conscious: A = alert; V = verbal, responding to verbal commands; P = pain, responding to pain; U = unconscious

avulsion /ə'vʌljən/ *noun* an act of pulling away tissue or a body part by force

avulsion fracture /ə,vʌlj(ə)n 'fræktʃə/ *noun* a fracture in which a tendon pulls away part of the bone to which it is attached

axial /'æksɪəl/ *adjective* referring to an axis

axial skeleton /'æksɪəl 'skelɪt(ə)n/ *noun* the bones that make up the vertebral column and the skull. Compare **appendicular skeleton**

axillary /æk'sɪləri/ *adjective* referring to the armpit

axis /'æksɪs/ *noun* **1.** an imaginary line through the centre of the body **2.** a central vessel which divides into other vessels **3.** the second vertebra on which the atlas sits (NOTE: The plural is **axes.**)

axon /'æksən/ *noun* a nerve fibre which sends impulses from one neurone to another, linking with the dendrites of the other neurone. See illustration at **NEURONE** in Supplement

azathioprine /eɪzə'θaɪəprɪn/ *noun* a drug which suppresses the immune response, used after transplant surgery to prevent rejection

-azepam /æzɪpæm/ *suffix* used in names of benzodiazepines ○ *diazepam*

azidothymidine /,eɪzɪdəʊ'θaɪmɪdiːn/ *noun* a drug used in the treatment of AIDS. Abbreviation

AZT. Also called **zidovudine**

azo- /eɪzəʊ/ *prefix* containing a nitrogen group

azoospermia /eɪzəʊə'spɜːmiə/ *noun* the absence of sperm

azoturia /,eɪzəʊ'tʃʊəriə/ *noun* the presence of urea or other nitrogen compounds in the urine, caused by kidney disease

AZT *abbreviation* azidothymidine

azygous /'æzɪgəs/ *adjective* single, not one of a pair

azygous vein /'æzɪgəs veɪn/ *noun* a vein which brings blood back into the vena cava from the abdomen

B

Babinski reflex /bəˈbɪnski ˈrɪːfleks/, **Babinski's reflex** /bəˈbɪnskiːz ˈrɪːfleks/ *noun* an unusual curling upwards of the big toe when a finger is lightly run across the sole of the foot, while the others turn down and spread out, a sign of hemiplegia and pyramidal tract disease. Compare **plantar reflex** [Described 1896. After Joseph François Felix Babinski (1857–1932), French-born son of Polish refugees. A pupil of Charcot, he was head of the Neurological clinic at Hôpital de la Pitié, 1890–1927.]

Babinski test /bəˈbɪnski test/ *noun* a test for a Babinski reflex

baby /ˈbeɪbi/ *noun* a very young child who is not yet old enough to talk or walk ○ *Babies start to walk when they are about 12 months old.* (NOTE: If you do not know the sex of a baby you can refer to the child as **it**: *The baby was sucking its thumb*)

baby blues /ˈbeɪbi bluːz/ *plural noun* same as **postnatal depression** (*informal*)

bacillaemia /ˌbæsiˈliːmiə/ *noun* an infection of the blood by bacilli

bacillary /bəˈsɪləri/ *adjective* referring to bacilli

bacille Calmette-Guérin /bəˈsɪːl ˌkælmɛt ˈɡeræn/ *noun* full form of **BCG** [After A. Calmette (1863–1933) and C. Guérin (1872–1961), French bacteriologists.]

bacilluria /ˌbæsiˈljʊəriə/ *noun* the presence of bacilli in the urine

bacillus /bəˈsɪləs/ *noun* a bacterium shaped like a rod (NOTE: The plural is **bacilli**.)

back /bæk/ *noun* 1. the part of the body from the neck downwards to the waist, which is made up of the spine and the bones attached to it (NOTE: For other terms referring to the back, see **dorsal** and words beginning with **dorsi-**, **dorso-**.) 2. the other side from the front ○ *She has a swelling on the back of her hand.* ⇨ **dorsum**

backache /ˈbækeɪk/ *noun* pain in the back, often without a specific cause

backbone /ˈbækbəʊn/ *noun* a series of bones, the vertebrae, linked together to form a flexible column running from the pelvis to the skull. Also called **rachis**, **spine**

background carboxyhaemoglobin level /ˌbækgraʊnd kɑːˌbɒksi hiːməˈɡlɔʊbɪn ˌlev(ə)l/ *noun* the level of carboxyhaemoglobin in the blood of a person who is not exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide

back pain /ˈbæk peɪn/ *noun* pain in the back, especially long-lasting or severe pain

backside /ˈbæksaɪd/ *noun* someone's buttocks (*informal*)

back strain /ˈbæk streɪn/ *noun* a condition in which the muscles or ligaments in the back have been strained

bacteraemia /ˌbæktəˈriːmiə/ *noun* the fact of having bacteria in the blood. Bacteraemia is not necessarily a serious condition. Compare **septicaemia**

bacteria /ˈbæktɪəriə/ *plural of bacterium*

bacterial /ˈbæktɪəriəl/ *adjective* relating to bacteria or caused by bacteria ○ *Children with sickle-cell anaemia are susceptible to bacterial infection.*

bacterial plaque /ˈbæktɪəriəl ˌplæk/ *noun* a hard smooth bacterial deposit on teeth

bactericidal /ˈbæktɪəriˈsaɪdəl/ *adjective* referring to a substance which destroys bacteria

bactericide /ˈbæktɪəriˈsaɪd/ *noun* a substance which destroys bacteria

bacteriological /ˌbæktɪəriəˈlɒdʒɪk(ə)l/ *adjective* referring to bacteriology

bacteriologist /ˈbæktɪəriˈplɒdʒɪst/ *noun* a doctor who specialises in the study of bacteria

bacteriology /ˈbæktɪəriˈplɒdʒi/ *noun* the scientific study of bacteria

bacteriolysin /ˈbæktɪəriˈplɪsɪn/ *noun* a protein, usually an immunoglobulin, which destroys bacterial cells

bacteriolysis /ˈbæktɪəriˈplɪsɪs/ *noun* the destruction of bacterial cells

bacteriolytic /ˈbæktɪəriəˈlɪtɪk/ *adjective* referring to a substance which can destroy bacteria

bacteriophage /ˈbæktɪəriəˈfeɪdʒ/ *noun* a virus which affects bacteria

bacteriostatic /bæk,tɪəriəʊ'stætɪk/ *adjective* referring to a substance which does not kill bacteria but stops them from multiplying

bacterium /bæk'tɪəriəm/ *noun* a microscopic organism. Some types are permanently present in the gut and can break down food tissue, but many can cause disease. (NOTE: The plural is **bacteria**.)

COMMENT: Bacteria can be shaped like rods (bacilli), like balls (cocci) or have a spiral form (spirochaetes). Bacteria, especially bacilli and spirochaetes, can move and reproduce very rapidly.

bacteriuria /bæk,tɪəri'jʊəriə/ *noun* a condition in which bacteria are present in the urine

Bactrim /'bæktrɪm/ a trade name for co-trimoxazole

Baghdad boil /,bægdæd 'bɔɪl/, **Baghdad sore** /,bægdæd 'sɔɪ/ *noun* a skin disease of tropical countries caused by the parasite *Leishmania*. Also called **Oriental sore**

BAHA *abbreviation* bone anchored hearing aid

Baker's cyst /,beɪkəz 'sɪst/ *noun* a swelling filled with synovial fluid, at the back of the knee, caused by weakness of the joint membrane [Described 1877. After William Morrant Baker (1838–96), member of staff at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, UK]

baker's itch /,beɪkəz 'ɪtʃ/, **baker's dermatitis** /'beɪkəz dɜ:mə'taɪtɪs/ *noun* an irritation of the skin caused by handling yeast

BAL *abbreviation* British anti-lewisite

balanced diet /,bælənst 'daɪət/ *noun* a diet which provides all the nutrients needed in the correct proportions

balanitis /,bælə'nnaɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the glans of the penis

balanoposthitis /,bælənəʊpɒs'thaɪtɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the foreskin and the end of the penis

balantidiasis /,bæləntɪ'daɪəsɪs/ *noun* an infestation of the large intestine by a parasite *Balantidium coli*, which causes ulceration of the wall of the intestine, leading to diarrhoea and finally dysentery

balanus /'bælənəs/ *noun* the round end of the penis. ⇨ **glans**

bald /bɔɪld/ *adjective* with no hair, especially on the head

baldness /'bɔɪldnəs/ *noun* the state of not having any hair

COMMENT: Baldness in men is hereditary; it can also occur in both men and women as a reaction to an illness or to a drug.

Balkan frame /,bɔɪl'kən 'freɪm/, **Balkan beam** /,bɔɪl'kən 'bi:m/ *noun* a frame fitted above a bed to which a leg in plaster can be attached. ⇨ **Pearson bed**

ball and cage valve /,bɔɪl ən 'keɪdʒ vælʃ/ *noun* an artificial heart valve, formed of a silicon

ball which moves inside a metal cage to open and shut the valve

ball and socket joint /,bɔɪl ənd 'sɒkɪt dʒɔɪnt/ *noun* a joint where the round end of a long bone is attached to a cup-shaped hollow in another bone in such a way that the long bone can move in almost any direction. Compare **ginglymus**

balloon /bə'lu:n/ *noun* a bag of light material inflated with air or a gas, used to unblock arteries

balloon angioplasty /bə'lu:n ,ændʒɪə 'plæstɪ/ *noun* same as **percutaneous angioplasty**

ballottement /bə'lɒtmənt/ *noun* a method of examining the body by tapping or moving a part, especially during pregnancy

balneotherapy /,bælniəʊ'therəpi/ *noun* the treatment of diseases by bathing in hot water or water containing beneficial natural chemicals

balsam /'bɔ:ls(ə)m/ *noun* a mixture of resin and oil, used to rub on sore joints or to put in hot water and use as an inhalant. ⇨ **frir's balsam**

ban /bæn/ *verb* to say that something is not permitted ○ *Smoking is banned throughout the building.* ○ *Use of this drug has been banned.*

bandage /'bændɪdʒ/ *noun* a piece of cloth which is wrapped around a wound or an injured limb ○ *His head was covered with bandages.* ■ *verb* to wrap a piece of cloth around a wound ○ *She bandaged his leg.* ○ *His arm is bandaged up.*

Bandl's ring /'bænd(ə)lz rɪŋ/ same as **retraction ring** [After Ludwig Bandl (1842–92), German obstetrician.]

Bankart's operation /'bæŋkɑ:ts ɒpə ,reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an operation to repair a recurrent dislocation of the shoulder [First performed 1923. After Arthur Sydney Blundell Bankart (1879–1951), first orthopaedic surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital, London, UK]

Banti's syndrome /'bæntɪz ,sɪndrəʊm/, **Banti's disease** /'bæntɪz dɪ,zɪ:z/ *noun* same as **splenic anaemia** [Described 1882. After Guido Banti (1852–1925), Florentine pathologist and physician.]

Barbados leg /bɑ:beɪdɒs 'leg/ *noun* a form of elephantiasis, a large swelling of the leg due to a *Filaria* worm

barber's itch /,bɑ:bəz 'ɪtʃ/, **barber's rash** /,bɑ:bəz 'ræʃ/ *noun* same as **sycosis barbae**

barbiturate /bɑ:'bɪtʃʊrət/ *noun* a sedative drug

barbotage /bɑ:bə'tɑ:ʒ/ *noun* a method of spinal analgesia by which cerebrospinal fluid is withdrawn and then injected back

barium /'beəriəm/ *noun* a chemical element, forming poisonous compounds, used as a contrast medium when taking X-ray photographs of soft tissue (NOTE: The chemical symbol is **Ba**.)

barium enema /ˌbæriəm ˈenɪmə/ *noun* a liquid solution containing barium sulphate which is put into the rectum to increase the contrast of an X-ray of the lower intestine

barium meal /ˌbæriəm ˈmi:l/, **barium solution** /ˌbæriəm səˈluːʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a liquid solution containing barium sulphate which someone drinks to increase the contrast of an X-ray of the alimentary tract

Barlow's disease /ˈbɑːləʊz dɪˈziːz/ *noun* scurvy in children, caused by a lack of vitamin C [Described 1882. After Sir Thomas Barlow (1845–1945), physician at various London hospitals and to Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V.]

Barlow's sign /ˈbɑːləʊz saɪn/ *noun* a test for congenital dislocation of the hip, in which a sudden movement is felt and sometimes a sound is heard when the joint is manipulated

baroreceptor /ˌbærəʊrɪˈseptə/ *noun* one of a group of nerves near the carotid artery and aortic arch, which senses changes in blood pressure

barotrauma /ˌbærəʊˈtrɔːmə/ *noun* an injury caused by a sharp increase in pressure

Barr body /ˈbɑː bɒdi/ *noun* a dense clump of chromatin found only in female cells, which can be used to identify the sex of a baby before birth [Described 1949. After Murray Llewellyn Barr (1908–95), head of the Department of Anatomy at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.]

Barré-Guillain syndrome /ˌbærɛ ˈgiː jæn ˌsɪndrəʊm/ *noun* ♦ **Guillain-Barré syndrome**

barrel chest /ˌbærəl ˈtʃest/ *noun* a chest formed like a barrel, caused by asthma or emphysema

barrier cream /ˈbæriə kriːm/ *noun* a cream put on the skin to prevent the skin coming into contact with irritating substances

barrier nursing /ˈbæriə ˌnɜːsɪŋ/ *noun* the nursing of someone who has an infectious disease. It involves keeping them away from other patients and making sure that faeces and soiled bedclothes do not carry the infection to other patients.

bartholinitis /ˌbɑːθəlɪˈnartɪs/ *noun* inflammation of the Bartholin's glands

Bartholin's glands /ˌbɑːθəlɪnz glændz/ *plural noun* two glands at the side of the vagina and between it and the vulva, which secrete a lubricating substance. Also called **greater vestibular glands** [After Caspar Bartholin (1655–1748), Danish anatomist.]

basal /ˈbeɪs(ə)l/ *adjective* located at the bottom of something, or forming its base

basal metabolic rate /ˌbeɪsɪk metəˈbɒlɪk reɪt/ *noun* the amount of energy used by the body in exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide when at rest. It was formerly used as a way of testing thyroid gland activity. Abbreviation **BMR**

base /beɪs/ *noun* 1. the bottom part ○ *the base of the spine* 2. the main ingredient of an ointment, as opposed to the active ingredient 3. a substance which reacts with an acid to form a salt ■ *verb* to use something as a base

Basedow's disease /ˈbeɪdəʊz dɪˈziːz/ *noun* a form of hyperthyroidism [Described 1840. After Carl Adolph Basedow (1799–1854), general practitioner in Mersburg, Germany.]

basement membrane /ˌbeɪsmənt ˌmem ˈbreɪn/ *noun* a membrane at the base of an epithelium

basilar /ˈbeɪzɪlə/ *adjective* referring to a base

basilic vein /ˌbæzɪlɪk ˈveɪn/ *noun* a large vein running along the inside of the arm

basophil /ˈbeɪsəfɪl/ *noun* a type of white blood cell which has granules in its cytoplasm and contains histamine and heparin

basophilia /ˌbeɪsəˈfɪliə/ *noun* an increase in the number of basophils in the blood

basophilic granulocyte /ˌbeɪsəfɪlɪk ˈɡrænʊləsaɪt/ *noun* same as **basophil**

Batten's disease /ˈbæt(ə)nɪz dɪˈziːz/ *noun* a hereditary disease which affects the enzymes of the brain, causing cells in the brain and eye to die

battered baby syndrome /ˈbætəd ˌbeɪbi ˌsɪndrəʊm/, **battered child syndrome** /ˈbætəd ˈtʃaɪld ˌsɪndrəʊm/ *noun* a condition in which a baby or small child is frequently beaten, usually by one or both of its parents, sustaining injuries such as multiple fractures

battledore placenta /ˈbæt(ə)ldɔː pləˌsentə/ *noun* a placenta where the umbilical cord is attached at the edge and not at the centre

Bazin's disease /ˈbeɪzɪnz dɪˈziːz/ *noun* same as **erythema induratum** [Described 1861. After Pierre Antoine Ernest Bazin (1807–78), dermatologist at Hôpital St Louis, Paris, France. He was an expert in parasitology associated with skin conditions.]

BC *abbreviation* bone conduction

BCC *abbreviation* Breast Cancer Campaign

B cell /ˈbiː sel/ *noun* same as **beta cell**

BCG /ˌbiː siː ˈdʒiː ˌvæksɪn/, **BCG vaccine** *noun* a vaccine which immunises against tuberculosis. Full form **bacille Calmette-Guérin**

BCh *abbreviation* Bachelor of Surgery

BDA *abbreviation* British Dental Association

bearing down /ˌbeərɪŋ ˈdaʊn/ *noun* a stage in childbirth when the woman starts to push out the baby from the uterus

bearing-down pain /ˌbeərɪŋ ˈdaʊn ˌpeɪn/ *noun* pain felt in the uterus during the second stage of labour (NOTE: Bearing-down pain is also associated with uterine prolapse.)

Beck inventory of depression /ˌbek ˌɪnvənt(ə)rɪ əv dɪˈpreʃ(ə)n/ *noun* one of the rating scales for depression, in which a series of 21