

TEAS 7 · SCIENCE

12 word parts that decode a science term you have never seen

You are not expected to know every term. You are expected to take one apart.

The TEAS puts unfamiliar vocabulary in Science questions on purpose — it is testing whether you can break a word into parts. These twelve cover a large share of what appears.

1	hypo- / hyper-	under / over. Hypokalemia is low potassium; hypertension is high pressure.
2	-emia	in the blood. Anemia, hyperglycemia, bacteremia.
3	cardi-	heart. Cardiomyopathy, tachycardia, myocardium.
4	-itis	inflammation. Appendicitis, nephritis, dermatitis.
5	nephro- / ren-	kidney. Nephron, renal artery, nephrectomy.
6	hepat-	liver. Hepatitis, hepatic portal vein.
7	-ectomy / -otomy	removal / cutting into. Appendectomy removes; tracheotomy opens.
8	brady- / tachy-	slow / fast. Bradycardia under 60, tachycardia over 100.
9	osteo-	bone. Osteoporosis, osteocyte, osteoarthritis.
10	-osis	a condition or process, usually abnormal. Acidosis, thrombosis.
11	endo- / exo-	inside / outside. Endocrine secretes inward; exocrine through a duct.
12	-cyte	cell. Erythrocyte, leukocyte, osteocyte.

Split the word, translate each half, then read the options again. Most distractors fail on the prefix alone.

