Medical Terminology: An Illustrated Guide (Point (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins))

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Now in its Sixth Edition, Medical Terminology: An Illustrated Guide is geared to the mid-level medical terminology course, and includes moderate amounts of anatomy and physiology. The author uses a stepwise approach to learning medical terminology. Part 1 describes how medical terms are built from word parts; Part 2 introduces body structures, diseases, and treatments; and Part 3 describes each body system. Individual chapters also build on knowledge in stages, with Key Terms sections listing those terms most commonly used and later Supplementary Terms sections presenting more specialized terms. This edition has a more reader-friendly design, provides more complete representation of the health professions, and includes dental terminology. Written pronunciations are included for all appropriate terms. A robust online ancillary package aids retention through exercises, games, and activities. PASSport to Success allows students to identify their personal learning style and target exercises and activities best suited to their learning style.

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I just graduated from high school and have a few months between now and medical college. Wanting to get a head start on my studying, I tried reading some anatomy books, but couldn't seem to get very far. Then I found this book. From the first glance, I could tell that it was a lot more accessible than most other books (which are meant for people who are already in medical school or the medical profession). Medical Terminology uses a good system—instead of just spitting lists of
vocabulary at you, it teaches you the meanings of common prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Learning the meanings of word parts is far more efficient than learning individual words, as it enables you to then synthesize multiple words for yourself, or "decipher" long medical terms by breaking them down. For example, once you learn that "cardio" is a root meaning "heart", and "-megaly" is a suffix meaning "abnormally large", you'll know that "cardiomegaly" means an enlarged heart. That being said, the book does also provide a good amount of vocabulary and supplementary terms. The last few pages of the book are flash cards of word parts that are meant to be torn out. I found them extremely helpful. The book's format is very reader-friendly. As you learn the word parts, there are short exercises and chapter reviews for you to do. (I photocopy these to make my own worksheets, since I don't like writing in my books.) There are also concise, textbook-style passages about anatomy or common clinical procedures, which provide you with solid basic knowledge without getting too in-depth. In addition, the book is visually appealing with nice pictures, pleasant colors, and good fonts.

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