

Introduction to Basic Medical Terminology

Mgr. Karel Černý, Ph.D.

OUTLINE

- Introduction, contact information
- Textbook
- Requirements for completion
- Structure of basic medical terminology
- Required introductory grammar

Contact information

- Institute for History of Medicine and Foreign Languages, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University
- Address: U Nemocnice 4, Praha 2, ZIP 12000 (the library building)
- WWW: <http://udl.lf1.cuni.cz/>
(choose the English version of the web)
- Email: karel.cerny@lf1.cuni.cz

OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK

- Dana Svobodová, *An Introduction to Greco-Latin Medical Terminology*, Prague (Karolinum) 2002.
- The book is not necessary.
- Students should use:
 - presentations
 - vocabulary (file vocabulary.pdf)
- Available for download through **moodle** system.

ACCESS TO MOODLE

- Moodle is an open source **learning management system** which is used by the Charles university.
- <http://dl.cuni.cz>
- Navigate through:
 - „lékařské fakulty“
 - „1. lékařská fakulta“
 - „Jazyky – Languages“
- To enter the course use password „fractura“.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE

- Latin terminology is a **two terms course** with
 - (a) obligatory credit at the end of both terms
 - (b) obligatory exam at the end of the summer term.
- To get the credit you have to pass a credit test.
- The tests are written during so called “credit weeks” (the last week of the term). Three attempts are allowed.

EXAM CONDITIONS

- Only a student who has already passed both credits is allowed to sit the exam.
- Three attempts are allowed.
- Exam consists of two parts:
 - written test
 - (if the test is successful) a spoken part follows.

CONSULTATIONS

- The consultations are available during the term on request. Ask your teacher after/before a lesson.
- The consultation is free.
- Can be very useful for individual study. Please, do not hesitate to ask for one.

STRUCTURE OF LATIN-GREEK MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

- Grammatical structure:
 - Nouns (substantivum, divided to 5 declensions)
 - Adjectives (adiectivum, two major groups, 3 declensions)
 - Numerals (numeralia, cardinal and ordinal numerals)
 - Prepositions (praepositiones)
 - Greek grammar (3 declensions to limited extent)
- Lexical structure:
 - Latin vocabulary
 - Greek vocabulary
 - One-word composed terms

NOUNS

- Nouns are divided to declensions.
- **Declension** is a group of nouns with similar grammatical parameters (nominative and genitive ending combination)
- In Latin, every declension consists of six grammatical cases in singular and plural. However, in our course only the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 6th will be used.

- Every noun or adjective is further specified by:
 - grammatical case
 - grammatical number
 - gender

LATIN GRAMMATICAL CASES

- Names of grammatical cases:
 - nominativus (nominative) abbreviated Nom.
 - genitivus (genitive/possessive case), abbrev. Gen.
 - dativus, (direction toward) Dat.
 - accusativus (accusative/objective case), Acc.
 - vocativus (used to address people)
 - ablativus (ablative), Abl.
- You will learn Nom. and Gen. during the winter term and Acc. with Abl. during the summer one.

GRAMMATICAL NUMBER

- There are two grammatical numbers in Latin:
 - Singular (only one thing), abbrev.: Sg.
 - Plural (two and more things), abbrev.: Pl.
- Grammatical number is employed in Latin in the same way as in English.

GRAMMATICAL GENDER

- There are three grammatical genders in Latin:
 - masculine (m.)
 - feminine (f.)
 - neutral (n.)
- Every noun in BMT belongs to one of those three.

ADJECTIVES

- Adjectives have numbers and grammatical cases but they have no genders.
- They use the same system of cases (and suffixes) as Latin nouns.
- They use the same system of numbers as nouns.

NUMERALS

- Basic Latin and Greek numerals will be required in the range from 1 to 10.

LATIN VOCABULARY

- You will be required to master groups of words corresponding with every grammatical lesson.
- The vocabulary can be found in the file `vocabulary.pdf` available through the moodle system.
- The vocabulary corresponds with the optional textbook (see 4).

GREEK VOCABULARY

- The Greek vocabulary consists of three parts:
 - stems
 - prefixes
 - endings
- Words of Greek origin are used for complex medical expressions (like for example *cheilognathopalatoschisis*). We call them sometimes **one-word composed terms**.