

HESI A2 VOCABULARY

Many of the vocabulary words presented on the HESI A2 Exam consist of medical terminology used regularly in the health care community. Identifying words properly as they are used in sentences greatly enhances the ability to answer the 50 questions in 50 minutes vocabulary portion of the exam. Detailed below are examples of key words and their meanings. Also included is a sample sentence.

WORD LIST

Word	Definition	Sample Sentence
Abdominal	pertaining to the body cavity between the chest and the pelvis	After having the appendix removed, he suffered abdominal pain.
Afebrile	does not have an elevated temperature	You must be afebrile to pass the COVID screening protocol.
Anterior	to the front	The anterior portion of the chest was sunburned.
Asymmetric	parts or aspects that are not equal	When Mary's tooth got infected, the cheek became swollen, giving her face an asymmetrical appearance.
Asymptomatic	free of symptoms	After taking antibiotics for her infected tooth, Mary was asymptomatic .
Auditory	pertaining to hearing	The auditory nerve was damaged and resulted in loss of hearing.
Catheter	a tube placed in an orifice or into a vessel or duct	A catheter was placed in the bladder to collect urine.
Concentrated	having had water or another diluent removed	The patient had not been drinking sufficient liquids and his urine was concentrated .
Contaminated	made impure by soiled material, microorganisms, or poisons	When the baby vomited, she contaminated the dressing on her arm.
Dehydrated	depleted of water	After three days of diarrhea, the toddler was dehydrated .
Disoriented	unaware of person, place, or time	In his disoriented state, he did not know who he was.
Edema	fluid collected in the tissue	After sitting in the chair to watch a movie, his feet developed edema .
Gait	the manner in which a person walks	Following a hip replacement, the grandma's gait improved.
Inaudible	unable to be heard	The client spoke so softly, she was inaudible .
Intravenous	within the vein or administered into a vein	A small catheter was placed in the vein to administer intravenous fluid.
Isolation	remove from the presence of others to prevent spread of contamination	The mother was put in isolation to prevent spreading infection to her newborn.

Word	Definition	Sample Sentence
Nasal	pertaining to the nose	The patient fell to the floor and suffered a nasal fracture.
Noninvasive	without entering the body	Ultrasound is a noninvasive examination, often used in obstetrics.
Oral	pertaining to the mouth	Oral care is very important in preventing cavities.
Oriented	aware of person, place, and time	She was oriented to the current date and time.
Posterior	to the rear or backside	The posterior side of the left leg has a fine red rash.
Proximal	closer to the trunk of the body	The proximal fracture of the forearm is near the elbow.
Respiratory	pertaining to breathing or the organs related to breathing	After walking the respiratory rate increased.
Sterile	free of contamination such as living microorganisms	These packages of instruments for the operating room are sterile .
Superficial	on the surface or immediately beneath	The abrasions on his knee are superficial and do not require a bandage.
Suture	stitch used to sew tissues together as in a laceration or incision	The ER doctor used sutures to close the laceration on the foot.
Turgor	the firmness of tissue based on the amount of water in the tissue	When I pinch the skin and pull it up, it makes a tent, indicating poor tissue turgor .
Ulcer	a defect in the surface of the skin or a membrane which exposes the cells below the surface	After lying in bed for a long period, he developed an ulcer over his coccyx.
Unilateral	one-sided	The pneumonia was unilateral , only affecting the right lung.