

Gross anatomy	The study of the macroscopic structures of an organism
Microscopic anatomy	The study of the microscopic structures of an organism
Physiology	The study of the functions of an organism and its parts
Histology	The study of tissue
Organ	A group of tissues specialized for a particular function
Tissues	Groups of cells specialized for a particular function
Homeostasis	A state of equilibrium in the body with respect to its functions, chemical levels, and tissues
Exocrine glands	Glands that secrete substances outward through a duct
Endocrine glands	Ductless glands that secrete hormones into the bloodstream
Merocrine glands	Exocrine glands that secrete without losing cellular material
Apocrine glands	Exocrine glands that have cytoplasm in their secretions. (apo = a part of)
Holocrine glands	Exocrine glands whose secretions are made up of disintegrated cells (holo = whole)
Chondrocytes	Mature cartilage cells
Stromal cells	Cells that provide structure or support for parenchymal cells
Parenchymal cells	Cells that provide the actual function of the tissue
Epidermis	The outer portion of the skin, formed by epithelial tissue which rests on the dermis
Dermis	Dense irregular connective tissue that forms the deep layer of the skin
Hypodermis	Loose connective tissue underneath the dermis which connects the dermis to the muscle or bone
Hemopoiesis	The process of manufacturing blood cells
Compact bone	Dense bone matrix enclosing only a few small spaces
Cancellous bone	Bone with many small spaces or cavities surround the bone matrix.
Ossification	Bone formation
Articular cartilage	Hyaline cartilage that covers the ends of a bone in a joint
Axial skeleton	The portion of the skeleton that supports and protects the head, neck, and trunk
Appendicular skeleton	The portion of the skeleton that attaches to the axial skeleton and has the limbs attached to it
Suture	A junction between flat bones of the skull
Osteoblast	A bone-forming cell
Osteocyte	A mature bone cell surrounded by bone matrix
Osteoclast	A large, multinucleated cell that breaks down bone
Hematoma	A localized mass of blood that is confined to an organ or some definable space
Neuron	The functional unit of the nervous system, a nerve cell
Synapse	The interface between a nerve cell and another cell
Neurotransmitter	A chemical release by a neuron. This chemical travels across the synaptic cleft, allowing the neuron to communicate with another cell
Subthreshold stimulus	A stimulus too small to create an action potential in a neuron
Threshold stimulus	A stimulus strong enough to create an action potential in a neuron

Submaximal stimuli	Stimuli of increasing strength that create more action potentials along more neurons
Maximal stimulus	A stimulus which is strong enough to create action potentials in all the motor neurons innervating a whole muscle
Muscle tone	The state of partial contraction in a muscle, even when the muscle is not being used
Mastication	The process of chewing
Nerves	Bundles of axons and the sheaths which extend from the CNS
Ganglia	Collections of neuron cell bodies which are outside of the CNS
Afferent neurons	Neurons which transmit action potentials from the sensory organs to the CNS
Efferent neurons	Neurons which transmit action potentials from the CNS to the effector organs
Somatic motor nervous system	The system that transmits action potentials from the CNS to the skeletal muscles
Autonomic nervous system	The system that transmits action potentials from the CNS to the smooth muscles, cardiac muscles, and glands
Sympathetic division	Division of the ANS that generally prepares the body for physical activity
Parasympathetic division	Division of the ANS that regulates resting and nutrition-related functions such as digestion, defecation, and urination
Association neuron	A neuron that conducts action potentials from one neuron to another neuron with the CNS
Excitability	The ability to create an action potential in response to a stimulus
Gray matter	Collections of nerve cell bodies and their associated neuroglia
White matter	Bundles of parallel axons and their sheaths
Vital functions	Those functions of the body necessary for life on a short-term basis
Mechanoreceptors	Sensory receptors which respond to movement
Thermoreceptors	Sensory receptors which respond to heat or cold
Photoreceptors	Sensory receptors which respond to light
Chemoreceptors	Sensory receptors which respond to chemicals
Nociceptors	Sensory receptors which respond to pain or excess stimulation
Cutaneous receptors	Receptors in the skin
Proprioceptors	Receptors in the muscles and tendons
Plasma	The fluid portion of the blood, which is mostly water
Formed elements of blood	The cells and cell parts of blood produced by the bone marrow
Erythrocytes	Red blood cells which carry the oxygen in blood
Leukocytes	White blood cells which perform various defensive functions in the blood
Platelets	Cell fragments in blood which help prevent blood loss
Coagulation factors	Proteins in blood plasma which help initiate the blood clotting process
Antigen	A protein or carbohydrate that, when introduced in the blood, triggers the production of an antibody
Arteries	Blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart
Capillaries	Tiny, thin-walled blood vessels that allow the exchange of gases and nutrients

	between the blood and cells
Veins	Blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart
Pulmonary circulation	Circulation of the blood over the air sacs of the lungs
Systolic phase	The phase of the cardiac cycle in which the ventricles contract
Diastolic phase	The phase of the cardiac cycle in which the ventricles relax
Lymph nodes	Encapsulated masses of lymph tissue found along lymph vessels
Lymph	Watery liquid formed from interstitial fluid and found in lymph vessels
Edema	A buildup of excess fluid in the tissues, which can lead to swelling
Immunological defense	The process by which the body protects itself from pathogenic invaders such as bacteria, fungi, parasites, and foreign substances
Lymph nodules	Lymphatic tissue arranged into compact, somewhat spherical structures
Innate immunity	An immune response that is the same regardless of the pathogen or toxin encountered
Acquired immunity	An immune response targeted at a specific pathogen or toxin
Pyrogens	Chemicals which promote fever by acting on the hypothalamus
Humoral immunity	Immunity which comes from antibodies in blood plasma
Cell-mediated immunity	Immunity which comes from the actions of T-lymphocytes
Mastication	The process of chewing
Digestion	The breakdown of food molecules into their individual components
Peristalsis	The process of contraction and relaxation of circular smooth muscles which pushes food through the alimentary canal
Adventitia	A thin layer of loose connective tissue that binds an organ to surround tissues or organs
Pneumothorax	Air in the pleural cavity, which leads to a collapsed lung
Surfactant	A molecule with a hydrophilic end and a hydrophobic end
Compliance	The ease with which the lungs inflate
Tidal volume	The volume of air inhaled or exhaled during normal, quiet breathing
Residual volume	The volume of air left in the lungs after a forceful exhalation
Retroperitoneal	Behind the parietal peritoneum
Erythropoiesis	The production of red blood cells (erythrocytes)
Filtrate	Blood plasma without proteins, found in the nephrons of the kidneys
Tubular maximum	The maximum rate of reabsorption by active transport through the nephron tubules
Buffer system	A mixture of an acid and a base which resists changes in pH