

GLOSSARY OF ANATOMICAL TERMS - 1987

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Notes: Each entry is related to its Latin (L.) or Greek (G.) derivation, and the accented syllable (or syllables), as stressed in English, is followed by a ('). Adjectives and participles functioning as adjectives are noted as adjectives. The terminology approved at the 1980 meeting of the International Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature is used, with the anglicized equivalents.

Vertebrae and cranial nerves are designated by Roman numbers.

Abbreviations used:

a./aa.	artery, arteries
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
cf.	compare
e.g.	for example
G.	Greek
L.	Latin
lig./ligg.	ligament(s)
m./mm.	muscle(s)
n./nn.	nerve(s)
n.	noun
pl.	plural
v./vv.	vein(s)
v.	verb
vx.	vessels

A (a)

abdom'en or ab'domen	L. abdomen = the belly, the part of the trunk between thorax and the perineum. (adj. - abdom'inal).
abduc'tion	L. ab = from, and ductum = led, hence, movement from. (v. - abduct).
access'ory	adj. L. accessum = added, hence, supplementary.
accommoda'tion	L. ad = to, and modus = measure, hence, adaptation of the optical power (focussing) of the eye for shorter distances.
acetab'ulum	L. acetum = vinegar (cf. acetic), and abulum = small receptacle, hence, a vinegar cup, hence, the socket for the head of the femur (adj. - acetab'ular).
acous'tic	adj. G. akoustikos, related to hearing.
acro'mion	G. akros = summit (cf. Acropolis) and omos = shoulder, hence, the tip of the shoulder.
adduc'tion	L. ad = to, and ductum = led, hence, movement towards (v. - adduct).
adhes'ion	L. ad = to, and haesus = stuck, hence, stuck to, e.g., a. in'terthalam'ica - variable and functionally insignificant.
adrener'gic	adj. L. ad = at, ren = kidney, and G. ergon = work, hence, stimuli which cause the adrenal (suprarenal) gland to produce adrenaline. Used to specify neurons or pathways which use adrenaline as a transmitter.

afferent	adj. L. ad = to, and ferent = carrying (cf. ferry), hence, carrying to, e.g., axons carrying information from retina to lateral geniculate nucleus are afferents to that nucleus.
agg'er (a'jer) nasi	L. = eminence of the nose.
ag'onist	G. agonistes = rival, hence, a muscle in apparent contest with another. Used for a prime mover.
a'la	L. wing, hence a wing-like process (pl. - a'lae).
albugin'ea	L. albus = white, G. gen = form, hence, like boiled white of an egg.
alimen'tary	adj. L. alimentum = food, e.g., alimentary canal.
allocor'tex	G. allos = other (than usual), and L. cortex = bark, hence non-laminated external grey matter. It refers to paleo- or archi-cortex, as distinct from neocortex.
alve'olus	L. a basin, hence any small hollow (pl. - alve'oli. adj. - alve'olar).
al'veus	L. = tray. The allusion is unclear. The alveus is a layer of fibres on the free surface of the hippocampus.
ambig'uus	adj. L. = doubtful (nucleus ambiguus).
ampul'la	L. = a two-handed flask, a local dilatation of a tube.
amyg'daloid	adj. G. amygdala = almond, and -ooides = like, hence, amygdaloid body is an almond-shaped mass.
anaesthe'sia	G. - an = negative, and aisthesis = sensation, hence, loss of sensation (adj. - anaesthet'ic).
analge'sia	G. an = negative, and algesis = pain, hence insensibility to pain (adj. - analge'sic).
anastomo'sis	G. ana = of each, and stoma = mouth, hence the end-to-end continuity of 2 vessels (adj. - anastomo'tic).
anatom'ical position	see position.
anat'omy	G. ana = up, and tome = a cutting, hence cutting up of a body.
anco'neus	G. ancon = elbow, hence the muscle attached to the (lateral surface of the) olecranon.
an'eurysm	G. angeion = blood vessel, and eurys = wide, hence a pathological dilatation of a blood vessel.
angiog'raphy	G. angeion (v.s.), and graphe = a record, hence a picture of a blood vessel which has been injected with a dye or radiopaque material.
anhidro'sis (anhydrosis, anidrosis)	G. an = negative, and hidros = sweat, hence absence of sweating, typical of skin deprived of its sympathetic innervation.
an'kle	the region between the leg and the foot.
an'sa	L. a handle or loop. Applicable to nerves.
antag'onist	G. anti = against, and agonistes = rival, hence a muscle which may oppose an agonist.
anteflex'ion	L. ante = before, and flexere = to bend, hence anterior angulation between the body and cervix of the uterus.
ante'rior	comparative of L. ante = before, in front.
antever'sion	L. ante = before, and versum = turned, hence, the anterior angulation between cervix uteri and the vagina.
antidro'mic	adj. G. a = negative, and dromos = current, hence conducting in the opposite direction to the usual.
an'trum	G. antron - cave, hence a space in a bone or organ.
an'ulus or ann'ulus	L. anus = ring.
a'nus	L. a ring. (adj. - a'nal).
ap'oneuro'sis	G. apo = from, and neuron = tendon (later applied to nerve cell and its fibres), used for sheet-like tendons. (adj. - aponeuro'tic).
apoph'ysis	G. apo = from, and physis = growth, hence, a bony process - reserved for the articular process of a vertebra (adj. - apoph'ysi'al).
appen'dix	L. supplement.

aq'ueduct	L. aqua = water, and ductus = drawn or led off, hence a channel for conducting fluid, e.g. the cerebral aqueduct of the midbrain, which transmits fluid from the 3rd to the 4th ventricle.
arach'noid	adj. G. arachne = spider, and -ooides = like, hence like a spider's web. This middle layer of the three meninges is spread web-like over the brain when the dura has been removed.
ar'bor vi'tae	L. arbor = tree, and vita = life, hence, resembling the tree of life. This colourful term is used to describe the pattern of cerebellar folia seen in a median section.
ar'chicerebell'um	G. archi = first, hence the oldest part of the cerebellum, which is the flocculonodular lobe.
ar'chipall'ium	G. archi = first, and pall'ium = cloak, hence the cortex which developed first in vertebrates. Often synonymous with hippocampal formation
ar'chistria'tum	G. archi = first, and L. stria'tum = streaked or fluted.
ar'cus	L. an arch, hence, ar'cuate - L. arcua'tum = curved or arched.
ar'ea	a part of a surface.
are'ola	L. small, open space.
arm	the upper limb, between shoulder and elbow.
arrec'tor	L. adrec'tus = raised, hence, arrector pi'li = a hair-raising muscle.
art'ery	L. arte'ria (which originally meant air- or wind-pipe, and later a blood vessel carrying blood away from the heart).
artic'ula'tion	L. ar'tus = joint, hence, artic'ulate - to form a joint.
ar'yte'noid	G. arytain'a = pitcher, and -ooides = like, hence the arytenoid cartilage because it curves like a spout.
as'pect	a view of more than one surface.
as'pera	L. rough.
as'trocyte	G. as'tron = star, and ky'tos = cell, hence a star-shaped (neuroglial) cell.
atax'ia	G. a = negative, and tax'is = order, hence inability to co-ordinate the voluntary muscles.
at'las	G. at'lao = I sustain. Atlas was a mythical god who sustained the globe on his shoulders. The 1st vertebra sustains the skull, and its upper surface bears 2 concavities which suggest Atlas' palms, not shoulders.
a'trium	L. = entrance hall (adj. - at'rial).
at'rophy	G. a = negative, and tro'phe = food, hence wasting from starvation.
auscul'tate	L. auscul'to = to listen to, hence, auscul'tation, the act of listening to a bodily activity.
aur'icle	L. auric'ula = a little ear.
au'tonom'ic	adj. G. auto = self, and no'mos = law, hence self-regulating.
axil'la	L. armpit.
ax'is	L. ax'is = the central line of a body or part thereof, especially the imaginary line around which rotation takes place.
ax'on	L. axis = axis, hence the main process of a neuron conducting impulses away from the cell body.
az'ygos	adj. G. a = negative, and zy'gos = paired, hence, unpaired.

B (b)

bas'ilar	adj. L. bas'is = base.
basil'ic	adj. G. basil'ikos = royal (king-sized).
bi'ceps	L. bis = double, and caput = head, hence 2-headed (adj. - bicipital).
bi'fid	adj. L. bis = double, and fin'do = to split.

bi'furcate	L. bis = double, and fur'co = fork, hence to divide into two.
bipen'nate	adj. L. bis = double, and pin'na = feather, hence converging from 2 sides.
body	the main part.
bor'der	see margin.
bra'chium	L. arm (adj. - bra'chial).
bra'chiocephal'ic	L. bra'chium = arm, and G. keph'ale = head, hence a blood vessel related to the upper limb and head.
branch'ia	G. = gills (adj. - branch'ial).
breg'ma	from a G. word implying moist, referring to the site of the anterior fontanelle (q.v.), a little fountain, the site of junction of the coronal and sagittal sutures, where the brain can be felt pulsating in infancy.
brev'is	L. = short - cf. brief.
bronch'iole	diminutive of bronch'us (q.v.).
bronch'us	derivation unhelpful - a branch of the trachea (adj. - bronch'ial).
bucc'al	adj. L. buc'ca = cheek
bucc'inator	L. trumpeter - hence the muscle which blows air out from the cheek under pressure.
bul'bus	L. = bulb or onion.
bul'la	L. bubble.
bur'sa	G. a purse, hence a flattened sac containing a film of fluid.

C (c)

cae'cum (cecum)	L. = blind.
calcan'eus	L. calx = heel, hence the bone of the heel.
cal'car	L. a spur.
cal'car av'is	L. the spur of a bird, hence a spur-like elevation.
calf	the soft tissue swelling at the back of the leg.
callos'um	L. cal'lum = hard.
calva'ria	L. cal'va = bald head, hence the part of the skull containing the brain - i.e. cranium minus the facial skeleton.
ca'lix	L. a wine-cup.
canal'	L. canal'is = a water-pipe or canal.
canalic'ulus	diminutive of canal.
can'cellous	adj. L. cancelli = grating or lattice.
ca'nine	adj. L. can'is = dog.
can'thus	G. kan'thos - used at first for rim of eye, then angle between ends of rims.
capill'ary	L. capillar'is = hair-like, hence a very thin blood vessel.

cap'sule	L. cap'sa = box, hence an enclosing sheet.
cap'itate	adj. Having a cap'ut (q.v.).
cap'ut	L. head. Cap'itis - of a head (adj. - capitate - having a head - cf. decapitate).
capit'ulum	diminutive of caput.
car'diac	adj. G. kar'dia = heart.
cari'na	L. a keel.
car'neae	L. car'nea = fleshy.
carot'id	G. kar'oo, to put to sleep, because compression of the common or internal carotid a. may cause coma.
car'pus	G. wrist (adj. - car'pal).
car'tilage	L. gristle, hence, cartilag'inous = adj.
carun'cle	diminutive of L. caro = flesh, hence, a small fleshy elevation.
cau'da	L. tail. (adj. - cau'date - having a tail).
c. equi'na	a horse's tail.
ca'vernous	L. containing caverns or cave-like spaces.
cav'ity	L. cav'itas = a hollow.
ca'vum	L. cave.
cen'tral	adj. L. cent'rum = centre.
cent'rum	L. centre.
cephal'ic	adj. G. keph'ale - head.
cerebell'um	diminutive of L. cer'ebrum = brain.
cer'ebrum	L. = brain, adj. cerebral.
ceru'men	L. ce'ra = wax.
cer'vix	L. = neck (adj. - cervi'cal).
chias'ma	G. kiasma = cross. (The G. letter chi = c).
cho'ana	G. = funnel (pl. - choan'ae).
chon'dral	adj. G. chon'dros = cartilage.
chor'da	L. = cord.
cho'roid	adj. G. chorion = skin, hence, like a membrane.
chyle	G. juice
cil'ium	L. = eyelid, hence, an eyelash (adj. - cil'iary, or ci'liat'ed).
ciner'eum	L. cin'eris, of ashes
cing'ulum	L. girdle or belt, adj. - cin'gulate.
cir'cumflex	verb and adj. L. cir'cum = around, and flex'ere = to bend, hence, bend or bent around.
cister'na	L. = a cistern
claus'trum	L. clau'sum = closed, hence a barrier

clav'icle	diminutive of L. clav'is = key - old Roman key was S-shaped.
cleido	G. kleisis, a closing (by a key of a lock) = related to clavicle.
clin'oid	adj. G. kline = bed, -oid = like, hence, like a bed-post
cli'vus	L. = slope (cf. declivity).
clunes	pl.. of L. clunis = buttocks, nates
coc'cyx	G. kokkyx = cuckoo, whose bill the coccyx resembles.
coch'lea	L. = snail, hence the spiral cochlea, adj. - coch'lear
coe'liac	adj. G. koil'ia = belly.
coeru'leus	adj. L. blue, hence, loc'us coeru'leus, a group of nerve cells in the rostral pons coloured blue or black by melanin.
collat'eral	adj. L. con = together, and latus = side, hence, alongside.
collic'ulus	diminutive of L. col'lis = hill.
col'lum	L. = neck (cf. collar).
colum'na	L. = column, or pillar.
co'lon	G. ko'lon = large intestine
com'itans	adj. L. = accompanying.
com'missure	L. con = together, and mis'sum = sent, hence fibres which cross between symmetrical parts
commun'icans	adj. L. = communicating.
con'cha	L. = shell
con'dyle	G. kondylos = knuckle
con'fluens	L. con = together, and fluens = flowing, hence the meeting of more than one stream.
conjuncti'va	L. con = with, and junct'us = joined (cf. junction), hence the continuous bulbar and palpebral lining membrane.
constrict'or	L. con = together, and strict'um = drawn tight, hence, producing narrowing.
con'tour	G. tor'nos = lathe, hence a line which turns - an outline.
co'nus	L. = cone, co'nus medullar'is - the lower end of the spinal cord.
cor'acoid	adj. G. kor'ax = a crow, hence, like a crow's beak.
corn'ea	L. cor'nu = horn, hence, the dense tissue forming the front of the eyeball.
cor'nu	L. = horn.
coro'na	L. = crown. adj. - cor-onary or coro'nal; hence a coronal plane is parallel to the main arch of a crown which passes from ear to ear (cf. coronal suture).
corono'id	adj. G. koro'ne = a crow, hence, like a crow's beak.
cor'pus	L. = body, pl. - cor'pora.
cor'rugator	L. con = together, and ruga = wrinkle, hence a muscle that produces wrinkles.

cor'tex	L. = bark, adj. cortical.
cos'ta	L. = rib. adj. - cos'tal.
cox'a	L. = hip, hence os cox'ae = the hip bone.
cran'ium	G. kran'ion = skull. (In anthropology = skull minus mandible) adj. - cranial.
cremas'ter	G. = suspender, hence the muscle which suspends the testis.
crib'riform	adj. L. crib'rum = sieve, hence, sieve-like.
cric'oid	adj. G. krik'os = ring, hence, ring-like, i.e. circular.
cris'ta	L. = crest, cris'ta gal'li = the (median) crest of a cock.
cru'ciate	adj. L. crux = cross, hence, crossed like the letter X.
crus	L. = leg. pl.: cru'ra.
cub'ital	adj. L. cub'itus = elbow.
cub'oid	adj. G. kuboid'es = cube-shaped.
cul'men	L. = summit (cf. culminate).
cun'eiform	adj. L. cun'eus = wedge, hence wedge-shaped.
cu'pula	L. = dome.
cus'p	L. cusp'is = a pointed elevation.
cuta'neous	adj. L. cut'is = skin.
cyst	G. kyst'is = bladder, adj. - cyst'ic.

D (d)

de'clive	L. decliv'itas = slope (cf. clivus).
decussa'tion	L. decussa'tus = crossed like the letter X.
deep	further from the surface.
de'ferens	adj. L. = carrying down.
degluti'tion	L. degluti're = to swallow, hence the act of swallowing.
del'toid	adj. G. del'ta (D). The capital has a triangular shape (cf. the delta of the Nile river).
den'drite or den'dron	G. = a tree, hence like the branches of a tree.
dens	L. = tooth (cf. dentist), adj. - den'tal.
den'tate	L. dens = tooth, hence, having a toothed margin.
depress'	L. de = prefix implying descent, and press'um = pressed, hence to press down, and depression = downward movement or a concavity on a surface.
der'matome	G. der'ma = skin, tome = a cutting or division, hence a segment of skin supplied by a single spinal ganglion.
der'mis	G. = skin, adj. - der'mal.
detru'sor	L. detru'sio = thrust away.

di'aphragm	G. dia = across, and phrag'ma = wall, hence, a partition, adj. - diaphragmat'ic.
diaph'ysis	G. dia = apart, and physis = growth, hence, the body of a long bone between the growing regions near the ends.
dias'tole	G. dia = apart, and stell'ein = sending, hence sending the walls of the heart apart, i.e. relaxation or dilatation. Adjective - diastol'ic.
dienceph'alon	G. dia = between, and enkeph'alos = brain, hence in general the structures surrounding the 3rd ventricle. adj. - diencephal'ic.
digas'tric	adj. G. dia = double, and gas'ter = belly, hence, 2-bellied.
dig'it	L. dig'itus = a finger or toe, usually excepting the pollex or hallux, adj. - dig'ital.
dip'loë	G. = fold, hence the cancellous bone between the inner and outer tables of the skull. adj. - diplo'ic.
diplo'pia	G. diplo'os = double, and op'sis = vision, hence double vision.
dis'cus	L. = disc.
dist'al	adj. L. di = apart, and stans = standing, hence, standing apart, implying farther from a given point, usually the root of a limb.
divertic'ulum	L. = by-road, hence a blind tubular process or sac.
dor'sal	adj. L. dor'sum = back.
duc'tus	L. = duct.
duode'num	L. duodenar'ius = twelve, because it is 12 FBs long.
du'ra	adj. L. = hard (cf. durable); dura mater, the tough covering membrane of the central nervous system.
dyspha'gia	G. dys = difficult, and phagein = to eat, hence, difficulty in swallowing.

E (e)

ectop'ic	G. ek = out, and topos = place, hence out of place.
edge	border or margin of a surface.
efferent	adj. L. ex = out, and ferens = carrying, hence, conducting from.
el'bow	the junction between arm and forearm.
el'evate	L. eleva'tus = raised up, hence, to raise up, and eleva'tion = a raised part.
emboliform'is	adj. G. em'bolus = wedge or blocking matter.
em'inence	L. em'inens = projecting, hence, a projection (usually smooth).
emissary	adj. L. e = out, and emiss'um = sent out; emissary v., one connecting intra- with extra-cranial venous channels.
enceph'alon	G. en = within, and keph'alos = head, hence, the brain.
en'docar'dium	G. en'do = within, and kar'dia = heart, hence, the endothelial lining of the chambers of the heart.

en'docra'nium	G. en'do = within, and kranion = skull, hence, the outer endostial layer of the dura mater.
en'dolymph	G. en'do = within, and L. lymph'a = clear water, hence the fluid within the membranous labyrinth of the internal ear.
en'dome'trium	G. en'do = within, and me'tra = uterus, hence the mucosal lining of the uterine lumen.
epen'dyma	G. = an upper garment. It may refer to a vest or singlet, i.e. an undergarment, hence, the lining membrane of the ventricles of the brain and central canal of the spinal cord.
epicar'dium	G. ep'i = upon, and kar'dia = heart, hence, the visceral layer of serous pericardium which covers the heart.
epicon'dyle	G. ep'i = upon, and kon'dylos = knuckle, hence a prominence on a condyle of the humerus or femur.
epicra'nial	adj. G. ep'i = upon, and kra'nion = skull, hence, the epicranial aponeurosis (galea) connecting frontalis mm. to occipitalis mm.
epidid'yomis	G. ep'i = upon, and did'yomos = testis, hence, the organ perched posterosuperior to the testis.
epidu'ral	adj. G. ep'i = upon, L. du'ra = tough, hence, external to dura mater.
epigas'trium	G. ep'i = upon, and gas'ter = belly, hence, the upper median zone of the abdomen.
epiglot'tis	G. ep'i = upon, and glot'tis = larynx, hence the uppermost part of the larynx.
epiph'ysis	G. ep'i = upon, and phy'sis = growth, hence, the end of a long bone beyond the cartilaginous growth disc, adj. - epiphysi'al.
epiplo'ic	adj. G. epiplo'on = a net, which the greater omentum resembles with fat entangled in it.
erec'tor	L. erec'tus = straight or upright.
eth'moid	adj. G. eth'mos = sieve, hence, like a sieve; an unpaired skull bone.
ever'sion	L. e = out, and ver'sum = turned, hence turned outwards.
exophthal'mos	G. ex'o = out, and ophthal'mos = eye, hence, prominent eyeball.
extend'	L. exten'do = extend or stretch out, hence, exten'sion = extended or straightened, hence, the position opposite to the flexed or bent position.
exter'nal	adj. L. = exter'nus = outward, hence, further from the inside.
ex'traperitone'al	adj. L. ex'tra = outside, G. per'i = around and tein'ein = stretched, hence outside the serous membrane stretched around the inside of the abdominal wall and around the viscera.
ex'trapyram'idal	L. ex'tra = outside, and pyramidal (q.v.), hence descending nerve tracts that do not traverse the pyramids of the medulla.
extrin'sic	L. extrin'secus = from without, hence (usually) a muscle (usually) originating outside the part on which it acts.

F (f)

fabel'la	diminutive of L. fa'ba = a bean, hence, a sesamoid bone found in the lateral head of gastrocnemius.
fa'cet	L. fa'cies = face, hence a small smooth bony surface, either coated with articular cartilage or the site of a tendinous attachment (cf. a facet on a diamond).
facil'itate	L. fa'cilis = easy, hence, to make easy.
falx	L. = sickle, hence, the sickle-shaped falx ce'rebri and falx cerebel'li, adj. - fal'ciform.
fas'cia	L. = band or bandage, hence the fibrous wrapping of muscles - deep f., or the subcutaneous layer of fatty connective tissue - superficial f., adj. fas'cial.
fasci'culus	diminutive of L. fas'cis = bundle, hence, a bundle of nerve or muscle fibres.
fasti'gius	L. fasti'gium = summit, hence the peak of the 4th ventricle, adj. - fasti'gial.
fau'ces	L. = throat, adj. - fau'cial.
fe'mur	L. = thigh, adj. - femoral.
fenes'tra	L. = window.
fi'bril	diminutive of L. fi'bra = a fibre.
fi'bre	L. fibra = a fibre, adj. L. fibro'sus = fi'brous.
fi'bula	L. = brooch, which the tibia and fibula resemble, the fibula representing the movable pin, adj. - fi'bular.
fi'lament	L. filament'um = a delicate fibre, adj. - filamen'tous.
fi'lum	L. = a thread. Fi'lum termina'le - a thread of pia continuous with the lower end of the spinal cord.
fim'bria	L. = a fringe, hence, fim'bria hippocam'pi, a scalloped band of fibres alongside the hippocampus.
fiss'ure	L. = a cleft.
fixa'tor	L. fix'us = fixed, hence, a muscle which fixes a part.
flac'cid	adj.. L. flac'cidus = weak or slack
fla'vum	adj., L. fla'vus = yellow.
flex	L. flex'um = bent, hence, flex'or, a muscle which bends a part of the body, and flex'ion = the act of flexing.
flex'ure	L. flex'ura = a bending.
floc'culus	diminutive of L. floc'cus, a tuft. Hence resembling a picture of a little cloud, with a woolly top and a flat base, as in floc'culus cer'ebel'li.
foe'tus (fe'tus)	the developing mammal in utero; in Man, after the 2nd month in utero, adj. - foe'tal or fe'tal.
fo'lia	plural of L. fo'lium = leaf.
fol'licle	L. folli'culus = a little bag. adj. - folli'cular.

fontanelle'	French diminutive of L. fons = fountain, associated with the palpable pulsation of the brain in the anterior fontanelle of an infant.
fora'men	L. = hole.
for'ceps	L. = tongs.
fore'arm	the upper limb between the elbow and the wrist.
for'nix	L. = arch (hence fornica'tion, because the Roman prostitutes plied their profession beneath the arches of the bridges over the river Tiber).
fos'sa	L. = a ditch or trench, hence a concavity in bone, or an organ, or on a lining surface.
fo'vea	L. = a pit (usually smaller than a fossa).
fove'ola	diminutive of fo'vea.
fren'ulum	diminutive of fre'num.
fre'num	L. bridle or curb.
fron'tal	adj. L. frontis = of the forehead, or coronal.
fun'diform	adj.. L. fun'dus = bottom or base (cf. fundamental), hence, sling-shaped.
fun'dus	L. = bottom or base. (But note that the fundus of the stomach and uterus are at the top, and the fundus of the eye and of the bladder are posterior!).
funi'culus	diminutive of L. fu'nis = cord (used usually for bundles of nerve fibres).
fu'siform	adj. L. fu'sus = spindle, hence, spindle-shaped.

G (g)

ga'lea	L. = helmet, hence, ga'lea apo'neuro'tica - the aponeurosis of occipitofrontalis m.
gal'lus	L. = cock, hence, cris'ta gal'li, the cock's comb.
gam'ma	the 3rd letter of the G. alphabet, typically used in a naming sequence - al'pha, be'ta, gam'ma, del'ta, etc.
gang'lion	G. = swelling, referring to a peripheral collection of nerve cells. adj. - ganglion'ic.
gastric, gastro	G. gas'ter = belly or stomach.
gastrocne'mius	G. gas'ter = belly, and kne'me = leg, hence, the bulging muscle of the calf.
gemel'lus	L. diminutive of gem'inus = twin.
ge'nial	adj. G. gen'eion = chin
genic'ulate	see geniculum.
genic'ulum	L. genic'ulare = to flex the knee, hence, a bent knee.
gen'ital	adj.. L. genital'is = reproductive, hence, genital'ia, the sexual organs.
ge'nu	L. = knee.

gin'giva	L. = gum (of tooth).
gir'dle	a ring of bones which may be complete or incomplete.
glabell'a	diminutive of L. gla'ber = bald, hence a smooth bony prominence between the eyebrows.
gland	L. glans = an acorn, adj. - glan'dular; a secreting organ.
gland'ula	diminutive of L. glans = acorn.
gle'noid	adj. G. gle'ne = socket
gli'a	G. = glue, hence, an adhesive connective tissue.
glo'bus	L. = a globe.
glomer'ulus	L. glomera're = to roll up, from glo'mus = a ball of thread (cf. conglomeration).
glos'sa	G. tongue, adj. - glos'sal
glot'tic -	adj. See glottis.
glot'tis	G. = larynx, hence, the boundaries of ri'ma glot'tidis.
glute'al	adj. G. glou'tos = rump or buttock.
glute'us	G. glute'os = rump or buttock. One of 3 muscles of the buttock, adj. - glute'al.
gon'ad	G. = reproduction, hence a gland producing gametes - ovary or testis, adj. - gonad'al.
grac'ilis	adj. L. = slender
granula'tion	diminutive of L. gra'num = a grain.
grav'id	adj. L. grav'ida = pregnant.
gris'eum	adj. L. gris'eus = bluish or pearly grey.
gubernac'ulum	L. something which governs or directs, like a rudder (cf. gubernatorial).
gy'rus	G. gy'ros = circle, hence a coil of brain cortex.

H (h)

haben'ula	diminutive of L. habe'na = rein.
hal'lux	L. hal'lex = great toe (hallu'cis = of the great toe).
ham'ate	adj. L. ha'mus = a hook, hence, hooked.
ham'strings	the tendons of the muscles of the ham - i.e. of the back of the thigh - felt posterior to the knee when the leg is flexed against resistance (semimembranosus, semitendinosus and biceps femoris).
ham'ulus	diminutive of L. ha'mus = hook.
haus'tra	L. = saccules
helicotre'ma	G. he'lix = a coil, and tre'ma = hole, hence the aperture at the apex of the bony cochlea whereby scala vestibuli communicates with scala tympani.
he'lix	G. = coil

hemianop'ia (hemianop'sia)	G. hem'i = half, an = negative, op'sis = vision, hence loss of half of the field of vision.
hemipare'sis	G. hem'i = half, pare'sis = paralysis, used usually to denote weakness rather than paralysis.
hemiple'gia	G. hem'i = half, ple'gia = stroke, hence, paralysis of one half of the body.
hem'isphere	G. hem'i = half, sphai'ra = ball, hence, half of a sphere.
he'par	G. = liver. adj. - hepat'ic.
her'nia	L. = a protrusion. adj. - her'nial.
hia'tus	L. = a gap (like that between some people's ears).
hi'lum	L. = the point of attachment of a seed, hence the part of an organ where the vessels and nn. are attached; adj. - hi'lar.
hind'brain	the part of the brain inferior to tentorium cerebelli, comprising medulla oblongata, pons and cerebellum.
hip	the lateral prominence of the hip bone and greater trochanter.
hippocam'pus	G. hippokam'pos = a sea-horse, hence, the curled shape of the hippocampus in coronal section; adj. hippocam'pal.
homo'logous	adj. G. hom'os = same, and log'os = word, hence a part with similar morphology but different function.
horizon'tal	adj. - parallel to the horizon.
horn	a projection, often pointed.
hu'merus	L. = the arm-bone.
hu'mour	L. humor = liquid, hence the aqueous and vitreous humour of the eyeball.
hy'aline	adj. G. hy'alos = glassy.
hydroceph'alus	G. hy'dor = water, koi'los = head. cf. cephalic.
hy'men	G. = membrane; across the virginal vagina.
hy'oid	adj. G. = U-shaped.
hyperacu'sis	G. hy'per = over, and akou'sis = hearing, hence excessive sensitivity to sound.
hypoglos'sal	adj. G. hy'po = under, and glos'sa = tongue.
hypoph'ysis	G. hy'po = down, phy'sis = growth, hence, a downgrowth (from the brain). However, this is not the whole truth. Part is an upgrowth from the pharynx. adj. - hypoph'ysi'al.
hypothal'amus	G. hy'po = under, and thal'amus (q.v.), refers to part of diencephalon.

I (i)

il'eum	G. eil'ein = twisted. adj. - il'eal.
il'ium	L. the bone of the flank, adj. - il'iac
i'ma	adj. L. = lowest, hence a. thyroidea i'ma.

im'par	L. = unpaired.
inci'sor	L. inci'sum = cut up.
incisu'ra	L. = notch.
in'cus	L. = anvil, hence the anvil-shaped ossicle of the middle ear.
in'dex	L. = a pointer, hence, the fore-finger
indu'sium	L. = tunic.
infe'rior	adj. L. = lower down, hence, farther from the head end.
in'fra	L. = below.
infundi'bulum	L. = funnel.
in'guinal	adj. L. inguen = groin.
inhibi'tion	L. inhi'bitus = restrained, hence, reduction of the excitability of a synapse.
in'nervate	L. in = into, and ner'vus = nerve, hence, to supply a nerve to a part.
in'sert	L. inser'tio = to join into, implant, hence, to attach; noun - inser'tion.
inspec'tion	L. inspec'tus = examined, hence, visual examination.
in'sula	L. = island.
integument	L. in = on, teg'men = roof, hence the skin coat.
in'tercala'ted	adj. L. in'ter = between, and cala'tum = inserted, hence interposed.
in'terdi'gitate	L. in'ter = between, and di'gitus = a digit. Hence, to interlock like fingers.
inter'nal	adj. L. inter'nus = inward, hence, nearer the inside.
in'ternun'cial	adj. L. in'ter = between, nun'cius = messenger.
in'tersti'tial	adj. L. in'ter = between, and sis'tum = set, hence, set between.
intes'tine	L. intes'tinum = the digestive tube beyond the stomach.
in'tima	L. = innermost.
in'tra	L. = within.
in'trafu'sal	adj. L. in'tra = within, fu'sus = spindle.
intrin'sic	adj. L. = on the inside.
i'ris	L. = a rainbow.
is'chium	G. is'chion = socket, because the ischium contributes more than either the ilium or pubis to the acetabulum.
i'so	G. = equal.
isth'mus	G. isth'mos - a narrow passage.

J (j)

jeju'num	L. jeju'nus = empty, adj. - jeju'nal.
joint	the meeting of 2 or more bones or cartilages, at which movement is possible.

jug'ular	adj. L. jugu'lum = neck.
ju'gum	L. = yoke (cf. conjugal).
jux'ta	L. = near.

K (k)

kinoci'lium	G. ki'neo = to move (cf. kinetic), and ci'lium L. = eyelash, hence protoplasmic thread of hair process in cupula of crista ampullaris of a semicircular duct.
knee	the junction of the thigh and the leg.
ko'niocor'tex	G. konis = dust, and L. cor'tex = bark, hence, sensory cortex containing mostly granular layers.

L (l)

la'bium	L. = lip (pl. la'bia), adj. - la'bial.
la'brum	L. = rim.
la'byrinth	G. labyrin'thos = maze, adj. - lsbyrin'thine.
lac'rimal	adj. L. lac'rima = a tear (drop).
lacta'tion	L. lact'ans = suckling. Hence, the act of secreting milk.
lac'tic	adj. L. lac = milk.
lactif'erous	adj. L. lac = milk, and fer're = to carry.
lacu'na	L. la'cus = lake, hence, a small pond or gap, adj. lacunar.
lamb'doid	adj. G. lamb'da, representing a capital 'L' and written as an inverted V; hence, like that letter.
lamel'la	diminutive of L. lam'ina = plate; hence, a small plate.
lam'ina	L. = plate, either a layer of nervous tissue, like the laminae of the lateral geniculate body, or a connective tissue membrane, like lamina cribrosa sclerae, or of bone, as in vertebral laminae; hence, laminec'tomy = lamina + G. ek'tome = excision - excision of the vertebral laminae to give access to the spinal cord; adj. - lam'inar.
la'rynx	G. = voice-box, adj. - larynge'al.
lat'eral	adj. L. la'tus = side, hence, nearer the side.
latiss'imus	superlative of adj. L. la'tus = wide, hence, latiss'imus dor'si m., the widest muscle of the back; earlier name was anitersor - wiper of the anus.
leg	the lower limb between the knee and the ankle.
lemniscus	G. lemnis'kos = a band or ribbon (applied to nerve fibres).
lens	L. = lentil - a transparent body with one or both surfaces curved to re-direct light rays, adj. - len'tiform or lenti'cular.
lep'tomen'inx (pl. l.-menin'ges)	G. lep'to = delicate, and men'inx = membrane. Usually refers to pia and arachnoid.
leva'tor	L. = elevator.

lien	L. = spleen, adj. - li'enal.
lig'ament	L. ligamen'tum = bandage, usually tying parts to each other, adj. - ligamen'tous.
lim'bus	L. = a margin, usually curved, hence, limbus of cornea, its circular junction with the sclera, adj. - lim'bic; limbic lobe of the brain comprises structures which encircle the junction of the diencephalon and telencephalon.
li'men	L. = a threshold, hence, sublim'inal - below threshold.
lin'ea	L. = line.
lin'gua	L. = tongue, adj. lin'gual.
lin'gula	diminutive of lin'gua, hence, a little tongue, adj. - ling'ular.
lis'sencephal'ic	adj. G. lis'sos = smooth, hence, a cerebrum lacking sulci.
lo'bule	Diminutive of lob'us.
lob'us	G. lo'bos = lobe, adj. - lo'bar.
lob'ulus	L. diminutive of lob'us, hence, a lobule.
lo'cus	L. a place (cf. location, locate, dislocate).
loin	L. lum'bus - the part of the back between the ribs and the hip bone.
longitu'dinal	adj. L. longitu'do = length, hence, lengthwise.
longus	adj. L. = long, hence, longiss'imus (superlative) = the longest.
lum'bar	adj. - see loin.
lum'brical	L. lum'bricus = worm, hence worm-shaped muscles of the palm.
lu'men	L. = opening, hence the space within a tube.
lu'nate	adj. L. lu'na = moon, hence, crescentic.
lu'teum	adj. L. = yellow.
lymph	L. lymph'a - clear spring water.
lymphatic	a vessel carrying lymph.

M (m)

mac'roscopic	adj. G. mak'ros = large, and sko'pein = to examine; hence, large enough to be seen with the naked eye, e.g., pertaining to gross anatomy.
ma'cula	L. = spot (cf. immaculate - spotless); adj. - macular.
malle'olus	diminutive of L. mall'eus = hammer, adj. - malle'olar.
mam'ma	L. = breast; adj. - mam'mary.
mammil'la	diminutive of mam'ma; adj. - mammil'lary.
man'dible	L. mandere = to chew; hence, the movable lower jaw; adj. - mandib'ular.
manu'brium	L. = handle; adj. - manu'brial.
ma'nus	L. = hand (cf. manual).

mar'gin	the edge or border of a surface; adj. - mar'ginal.
mas'seter	G. = chewer; adj. - masseter'ic.
mas'toid	adj. G. mas'tos = breast or teat.
maxil'la	L. = jaw-bone; now used only for the upper jaw; adj. - maxil'lary.
mea'tus	L. = passage; adj. - mea'tal.
me'dial	adj. L. me'dius = middle; hence, nearer the median plane.
me'dian	L. media'nus = in the middle.
me'diasti'num	derivation doubtful, but possibly from L. me'dius = middle, and stans = standing; hence, a median vertical partition, adj. - me'diasti'nal.
medul'la	L. = marrow; applied to part of an organ deep to its cortex, and to the spinal cord and adjoining part of brain stem, which may have been thought to be the marrow of the vertebral column, adj. - med'ullary pertains to the medulla of an organ or medulla oblongata.
mem'brane	L. membrana = a thin sheet; adj. - mem'branous.
menin'ges	plural of G. meninx = a membrane; adj. - meninge'al.
menis'cus	L. men'is - a small crescent.
men'tal	adj. - L. mentum = chin; or L. mens = mind
mes'enceph'alon	G. me'sos = middle, and enkeph'alos = brain; adj. - mes'encephal'ic.
mes'entery	G. me'sos = middle, and en'teron = intestine; hence, the peritoneal fold which tethers the centrally situated small intestine; adj. - mesenter'ic.
me'sial	adj. - medial, used in dental anatomy.
me'sosal'pinx	G. me'sos = middle, and sal'pinx = tube; hence, the intermediate part of the broad lig.
met'acar'pus	G. met'a = after, and kar'pus = wrist; adj. - met'acar'pal.
metaph'ysis	G. meta = after, and phys'is = growth; hence, the end of the shaft of a bone alongside the epiphysial or growth cartilage; adj. - metaphysi'al.
met'atar'sus	G. meta = after, and tarsos = ankle; hence, the bones beyond the tarsus. adj. - met'atar'sal.
metop'ic	adj. G. met'opon = forehead.
min'imus	L. = smallest.
mio'sis	G. meio'sis = lessening; hence, pupillary constriction; adj. - miot'ic.
modal'ity	L. mo'dus = mode; hence, a form of sensation - e.g. touch, pain, sight.
modi'olus	L. a cylindrical borer with a serrated edge; hence, like a screw; the central stem of the bony cochlea.
mo'lar	adj. L. mo'la = mill.
mons	L. = mountain; mons pubis, the soft tissue bulge over the female pubes.
morphol'ogy	G. mor'phos = form, and log'os = word or relation; hence, study of pattern of structure; adj. - morpholog'ical.
multif'idus	L. mul'tus = much, and fin'dere - to split.

muscle	L. musculus, diminutive of G. mus = mouse, the body and head of which represent the main belly of a muscle, and the tail, the tendon.
mydriasis	G. = dilatation of the pupil
myelin	G. myelos = marrow; hence, white fatty sheath of an axis cylinder; adj. - myelinated.
mylohyoid	G. mylo = molar, and hyoides = U-shaped.
myocardium	G. mys = muscle, and kardia = heart, adj. - myocardial.
myotome	G. mys = muscle, and tome = a cutting or division; hence, a group of muscles innervated by a single spinal segment.

N (n)

nares	L. = nostril (plural - nares).
nasal	adj. L. nasus = nose; hence, pertaining to the nose.
natal	adj. L. natus = born; hence, relating to birth.
nates	pl. of L. natis = buttocks, clunes.
navicular	adj. L. navicula = a little ship (cf. naval); hence, the tarsal bone which is concave posteriorly, resembling a boat.
neo	G. prefix - neos = new.
neonatal	adj. G. neos = new, and L. natus = born; hence, new-born.
neopallium	G. neos = new, and pallium - L. = cloak; hence, the cerebral cortex which developed more recently than the archipallium or olfactory cortex.
nerve	L. nervus = tendon; later reserved for a peripheral bundle of fibres which conduct impulses from or to the central nervous system.
neural	adj. G. neuron = nerve.
neuroglia	G. neuron = nerve, and glia = glue; hence, the connective tissue of the central nervous system; adj. - neuroglial.
neurohypophysis, or posterior lobe of hypophysis	G. hypo = down, and physis = growth; hence, the posterior part of the hypophysis evaginated inferiorly from the diencephalon, and its stalk.
neuroma	G. neuron = nerve, and lema = peel or rind; hence, the covering layer of a nerve.
neuron	G. = nerve; refers to the nerve cell body, with its axon and dendrites; adj. - neuronal.
norma	L. = pattern or rule, or aspect; adj. normal - according to rule.
notch	an indentation in the margin of a structure. Etymology uncertain.
notochord	G. notos = back, and chorde = cord; hence, the primitive axial skeleton around which the vertebrae develop, parts persisting in the nuclei pulposi.
nucha	Fr. nuque = nape or back of the neck; adj. - nuchal.
nucleus	L. = kernel or nut; may refer to the vital centre of a cell body, or to a cluster of neuron cells in the C.N.S.; adj. - nuclear.

O (o)

o'bex	L. = barrier; hence, the coronal fold of ependyma over the lower angle of the 4th ventricle.
oblique'	adj. L. obliq'uus; slanting, or deviating from the perpendicular or the horizontal.
ob'longa'ta	L. oblong'us = oblong; medulla oblongata.
ob'turator	L. ob'tura'tus = stopped up; whence, a structure which closes a hole.
oc'ciput	L. ob- = prominent (cf. ob-vious), and caput = head; hence, the prominent convexity of the back of the head; adj. - occi'pital.
occlu'sion	L. occlu'sum = closed up; hence, apposition of reciprocal teeth, or the blocking of any tubular structure; adj. - occlu'sal.
oesoph'agus	G. = gullet (passage from pharynx to stomach); adj. - oesophage'al.
olec'ranon	G. ol'ene = ulna, and kranion = upper part of head; hence, the upper end of the ulna.
olfac'tory	adj. L. olfac'to = smell.
ol'ive	L. ol'iva - the oval fruit of the olive tree; oval eminence on medulla oblongata; adj. - ol'ivaryi.
omen'tum	L. = apron; adj. - omen'tal.
o'mohy'oid	G. o'mos = shoulder; hence, a muscle attached to the scapula and hyoid.
oper'culum	L. lid or cover; hence, oper'culum in'sulae, the cerebral cortex covering and hiding the insula (the 5th lobe of cerebral cortex).
ophthal'mic	adj. G. ophthal'mos = eye.
oppose'	L. oppos'itum = put against; hence, to resist or place in contact with, and opposition - the action of opposing.
op'tic	adj. G. op'tos = seen; hence, pertaining to sight.
o'ra serra'ta	L. o'ra = margin, and ser'ra = saw; hence, the serrated anterior edge of the functional part of the retina.
or'bit	L. or'bis = circle; the name given to the bony socket in which the eyeball rotates; adj. - or'bital.
or'ifice	L. orific'ium = opening.
os	either L. os = bone; adj. - oss'eous; or L. os = mouth, adj. - o'ral.
oss'icle	L. ossic'ulus, diminutive of os = bone.
os'sify	L. os = bone, and fac'io = make; hence, to form bone; and os'sifica'tion, the process of bone formation.
osteol'ogy	G. os'teon = bone, and log'y = a field of study.
o'tic	adj. G. o'tos = ear.
o'tolith	G. otos = ear, and lith'os = stone; hence, calcareous particles in the utricle and saccule of the membranous labyrinth.
o'vary	L. o'vum = egg; hence, the organ containing ova (the largest cells in the female).
o'vum	L. egg (plural - o'va).

P (p)

pach'yment'inx	G. pach'ys = thick, and men'inx = membrane; hence, the thick membrane covering the C.N.S., i.e., dura mater.
pal'ate	L. pala'tum = palate, adj. - pala'tal or pal'atine.
pa'leo	G. pal'aios = old; hence, pa'leocerebel'lum, the earliest stage in the evolution of the cerebellum.
pal'lidus	adj. L. = pale.
pal'lium	L. = cloak; hence, the cerebral cortex forming the outer covering of the cerebral hemisphere.
palma	L. palma = palm; adj. palm'ar - L. palmaris.
palpate'	L. palpa're = to touch, and palpa'tus = touched; hence, to examine by feeling, and palpa'tion, such an examination.
pal'pebra	L. = eyelid, probably from palpita're = to flutter.
pampin'iform	adj. L. pampi'nus = tendril.
pan'creas	G. = sweetbread, derived from G. pan = all, and cre'as = flesh; adj. - pancreat'ic.
papil'la	L. = nipple or teat; adj. - papil'lary.
par'aesthe'sia	G. par'a = beside, and aisthe'sia = sensation; hence, abnormal sensation, usually burning or pricking.
pa'rame'trium	G. par'a = beside, and me'tra = womb; hence, the connective tissue alongside the body of the uterus, within the broad lig.
pa'ruple'gia	G. par'a = beside, and pleg'e = a stroke; hence, paralysis of the lower limbs.
pa'rare'nal	adj. G. par'a = beside, L. ren = kidney; hence, beside the kidney, e.g., pa'rare'nal fat, the fatty capsule of the kidney.
pa'raster'nal	adj. G. par'a = beside, and ster'non = chest; hence, the pa'raster'nal line is a vertical line about midway between the sternal edge and the midclavicular line.
pa'rasymphet'ic	adj. G. par'a = beside, syn = with, and path'os = feeling; hence, the division of the autonomic nervous system complementary to the sympathetic system.
pa'rathy'roid	adj. G. par'a = beside, and thy'roid; hence, beside the thyroid gland.
pare'sis	G. = relaxation, but has come to mean partial paralysis.
pari'etal	adj. L. parieta'lis, pertaining to par'ies = wall.
paro'tid	adj. G. par'a = beside, and o'tos = of the ear; hence, beside the ear.
par'ous	adj. L. pa'rio = I bear (children); hence, adj. applied to woman who has borne one or more children (cf. nullip'arous, multip'arous).
pars	L. = part.
patel'la	L. a small pan; adj. - patel'lar.
pec'ten	L. comb.

pec'tinate	adj. (from <i>pecten</i>) applied to structures having the appearance of parallel teeth arising from a straight back (mm. pectina'ti), or the sellar appearance of the superior pubic ramus, which may have resembled the body of antique combs.
pec'toral or pectora'lis	adj. L. pectoris = of the front of the chest.
ped'icle	diminutive of L. ped'is = of the foot.
ped'is	L. = of the foot.
pedun'cle	variation of pedicle.
pellu'cidum	adj. L. per = through, and lu'cere - to shine; hence, translucent.
pel'vis	L. = basin; adj. - pelvic.
pe'nis	L. = tail; the male organ of copulation.
penna'tus or pen'nate or pin'nate	adj.s. L. pen'na = feather; hence, a muscle whose fibres approach the tendon from one direction is unipennate; from two, bi'pennate, and from more than two, mul'tipen'nate.
per'ianal	adj. G. per'i = around, and L. a'nus = lower opening of alimentary canal.
per'icar'dium	G. per'i = around, and kar'dia = heart; hence, the membranes enclosing the heart.
per'icra'nium	per'i - G. around, and kra'nion = skull; hence, the external periosteum of the skull.
per'ichon'drium	per'i - G. = around, and chon'dros = cartilage; hence, the membrane covering cartilage.
per'ilymph	per'i - G. around, and lymph'a - L. = clear water; hence, the fluid in the bony labyrinth surrounding the membranous labyrinth (and continuous with C.S.F.).
per'ine'um	G. the caudal aspect of the trunk between the thighs, or, the region of the trunk below the pelvic diaphragm; adj. - per'ine'al.
per'iodon'tal	adj. G. per'i = around, and o'dont = tooth.
per'ios'teum	per'i - G. = around, and os'teon = bone; hence, the membrane around a bone.
per'ipher'al	adj. (cf. periphery) - G. per'i = around, and phe'ro = carry; hence, away from the centre.
per'istal'sis	per'i - G. around, and stel'lein - to constrict; hence, a circular constriction passing as a wave along a tube; adj. - per'istal'tic.
per'itone'um	G. per'itei'no = to stretch around; hence, the membrane stretched around the internal surface of the walls and the external aspect of some of the contents of the abdomen; adj. - per'itone'al.
per'one'al	adj. G. per'one = clasp - see fibula.
pes	L. = foot.
pe'trous or petro'sal	adj. L. petro'sus = rocky.
phal'anx	L. = row of soldiers; hence, one of the small bones of a digit, plural - phal'anges.; adj. - phal'ange'al.

pharynx	G. = throat; adj. - phar'yng'e'al.
phil'trum	G. phil'tron - the median sulcus of the upper lip. Derivation doubtful.
phona'tion	G. pho'ne = sound or voice; hence, the production of either.
phren'ic	G. phren = diaphragm or mind; hence, diaphragmatic (cf. schizophrenic)..
pi'a	L. = faithful, hence, the membrane which faithfully follows the contour of the brain and spinal cord.
pi'lus	L. = a hair.
pine'al	adj. L. pin'ea = a pine cone; hence, the pineal gland which is cone-shaped.
pir'iform	adj. L. pi'rum = a pear; hence, pear-shaped.
pi'siform	adj. L. pi'sum = a pea; hence, pea-shaped.
plane	L. pla'nus = flat; hence, a real or imaginary flat surface
plan'ta	L. the sole of the foot; adj. - plan'tar or planta'ris.
platys'ma	G. = flat object; hence, the flat subcutaneous muscle extending from below the clavicle to the mouth.
pleu'ra	G. = a rib. Later used to name the serous membrane lining the chest walls and the lung on each side.
plex'us	L. = a network or plait.
pli'ca	L. plica're = to fold; hence, a fold.
pollex	thumb
pons	L. = bridge; adj. - pon'tine; part of the brain stem.
poplite'us	L. pop'les = the ham or thigh, and sometimes, the knee; adj. poplite'al, referring to the fossa posterior to the knee or its contents.
por'us	L. a pore or foramen; hence, the openings of the acoustic meatuses.
por'ta	L. = a gate, also L. porta're = to carry; hence, the portal system carries venous blood from the alimentary tract to the por'ta hep'atis; adj. - port'al.
posterior	adj. L. post = behind (in place or time).
pos'ture	L. pos'itus = placed; hence, the position of the body as a whole at a given moment, e.g. erect, recumbent, prone, supine, sitting, kneeling.
precun'eus	L. pre = before, and cun'eus = wedge; hence, the parietal lobule anterior to the cuneus.
prep'uce	L. praepu'tium = foreskin (of penis or clitoris).
proce'rus	L. slender, elongated; hence, the vertical slip of muscle between the medial part of frontalis and the root of the nose.
pro'cess, proces'sus	L. going forwards, used to indicate growing out, i.e., an outgrowth, usually of bone, e.g., the zygomatic process of the temporal.
prom'on'tory	L. promontor'ium = a headland, i.e., part of land jutting into the sea - used for a bony prominence.

prone	L. prona'tus = bent forwards; hence, recumbent face-down posture; hence, to pro'nate = to turn the hand so that the palm faces posteriorly.
pro'priocep'tive	L. prop'rius = one's own, and cap'tum = taken; hence, sensory impulses received by the joints and muscles within one's own body.
prosec'tor	L. pro = before, and sec'tum = cut. One who prepares a dissection for demonstration.
pro'senceph'alon	pro - L. = in front, and enkephalos - G. brain; hence, the part of the brain rostral to the midbrain.
pros'tate	G. pro = before, and L. = sta'tum = stood; hence, something which stands before - the prostate stands before the urinary bladder.
protract'	L. protract'us = drawn out; hence, to put forwards (e.g., shoulder or mandible). Protrac'tion - the act of protracting.
protrude'	L. protru'do = thrust forwards, e.g. the tongue; protru'sion - the act of protruding.
protu'berance	L. protu'bero = I bulge out; hence, a bulging bony feature (see tuber).
prox'imal	adj. L. prox'ime = nearest; hence, nearer to the root of a limb.
pso'as	G. = loin.
pter'ion	G. pter'on = wing; hence, the region where the tip of the greater wing of the sphenoid meets or is close to the parietal, separating the frontal from the squamous temporal; alternatively the region where these 4 bones meet.
pter'ygoid	adj. G. pter'yx = wing, and oid = shape; hence, wing-shaped.
pto'sis	G. = fall; hence, drooping of an eyelid, or descent of an internal organ.
pu'berty	L. pu'ber = adult; hence, the time when hair appears in the pu'bic region - i.e., near the pu'bis - as a secondary sexual characteristic.
pu'den'dal	adj. L. puden'dus = shameful; hence, pertaining to the external genitalia.
pul'monary	adj. L. pul'mo = lung.
pulp	L. pul'pa = a soft part of the body or tooth.
pulvinar	L. pulvinus = rounded cushion; the posterior end of the thalamus.
pu'pil	L. pupil'la = the central black orifice in the iris; adj. - pupil'lary.
puta'men	L. = peel, husk or shell of fruit or seed (the external part of the lentiform nucleus).
py'elogram	G. py'elos = basin, and gramma = diagram; hence, radiograph of the renal pelvis (and usually of the ureter) after filling with contrast medium.
pylor'us	G. = gate-keeper; hence, the part of the pyloric canal containing the sphincter, which guards the opening into the duodenum; adj. - pylor'ic.
pyr'amid	G. pyr'amis = a pyramid (solid with 3- or more-sided base, and flat sides meeting at the apex), adj. - pyram'idal.

Q (q)

quadra'tus	L. = square or rectangular.
quad'riceps	L. quad'ri - pertaining to 4, and cap'ut = head; hence, a 4-headed muscle.

R (r)

ra'dia'tion	L. radia'tus = radiant; hence, divergence from a common centre (cf. radius).
ra'dius	L. = spoke of a wheel, which rotates around the hub; hence, the lateral bone of the forearm, which rotates (though around an almost vertical axis); adj. - ra'dial.
ra'dix	L. = root.
ram'ify	L. ra'mus = a branch; and fac'ere = to make; hence, to branch.
ra'mus	L. = branch; hence, a branch of a nerve.
ra'phe	G. a seam; hence, the line of junction of the edges of 2 muscles or areas of skin.
re'cess	L. reces'sus = a secluded area or pocket; hence, a small cavity set apart from a main cavity.
rec'tum	adj. L. rec'tus = straight. (The rectum was named in animals where it is straight - which it is not in Man).
reflect'	L. reflec'to = to bend back; hence, reflection = a turning or folding back.
re'flex	an involuntary response - muscular or secretory - to a stimulus mediated by the C.N.S.
re'nal	adj. L. ren = kidney.
re'te	L. a net; hence, a network of veins or tubules.
retic'ulum	L. diminutive of re'te; adj. - retic'ular.
ret'ina	derivation uncertain - the innermost of the 3 layers of the eyeball.
retinac'ulum	L. = a tether; hence, a thickened band of deep fascia which retains tendons or the patella.
retract'	L. re = back, and tract'um = pulled; hence, to pull something back, and retrac'tion - the act of retracting.
ret'ro	prefix - L. = backwards.
ret'roflex'ion	ret'ro - L. backwards, and flex'ion = bent; hence, the position of being bent backwards, applied to the angulation of the body of the uterus on the cervix.
ret'rover'sion	ret'ro - L. backwards, and ver'sion = turned; hence, the position of being turned backwards, applied to the angulation of the cervix uteri on the vagina.
rhi'nenceph'alon	rhin'ion, G. = nostril, and enkeph'alos = brain; hence, the part of the brain concerned with smell (relatively large in lower animals).

rhombencephalon	rhombos - G. = rhomboid, and encephalos = brain; hence, the hind-brain - the medulla oblongata, pons and cerebellum, which enclose the rhomboid fossa (the floor of the 4th ventricle).
rima	L. = chink; hence, e.g., rima palpebrarum = the chink between the free edges of the eyelids.
risorius	L. risor = scoffer; hence, m. risorius is the facial muscle which expresses laughter by drawing the corner of the mouth laterally.
rostral	see <i>rostrum</i> .
rostrum	L. beak, which decorated the Roman orator's platform; hence, a platform or beak-like structure; adj. - rostral, implying nearness to the rostrum of corpus callosum.
rotate'	L. rota = wheel; hence, to turn, and rotation, the act of turning.
rugae	L. = a wrinkle.

S (s).

sac	L. sacculus = a sack.
sacculus	L. sacculus, diminutive of sacculus.
sacrum	L. sacrum = sacred (probably considered so because of its size).
sagittal	adj. L. sagitta = arrow, because the sagittal suture is notched posteriorly, like an arrow, by the lambdoid sutures.
salivary	adj. L. saliva = spit.
salpinx	G. = trumpet; hence, the uterine or auditory tube, each of which is trumpet-shaped.
saphenous	adj. G. saphenes = obviously visible. The saphenous vv. become very apparent when varicose.
sartorius	L. = tailor; hence, sartorius mm., which produce the posture in which tailors once worked, squatting on the floor.
scala (pl. scalae)	L. = stairs; hence the parallel spiral passages which wind up to, or down from, the cupula of the bony cochlea.
scalene, scalenus	adj. G. skalenos = uneven, hence a triangle with unequal sides, an apt description of the shape of scalenus anterior and scalenus medius mm.
scaphoid	adj. G. skaphos = skiff; hence the carpal which is hollowed out on its distal surface for the head of the capitate; also the fossa occupied by tensor veli palatini m.
scapula	G. skapto = I dig, because of the resemblance to a spade.
sciat'ic	adj. G. ischion = hip-joint. Ischiadikos meant pertaining to the ischium or hip - later changed to sciat'ic. (The ischium earns its name because it forms $> 2/5$ of the acetabulum, whereas the ilium contributes $< 2/5$, and the pubis only $1/5$). The sciatic nerve lies on the ischium.
scle'ra	G. skleros = hard; hence the tough, outer layer of the eyeball; adj. - scleral.
scro'tum	possibly derived from L. scor'teus = leather; adj. - scro'tal.

secrete'	L. secre'tus = separated; hence, to produce a chemical substance by glandular activity - adj. secretory; noun, secretion.
sell'a	L. = saddle; adj. - sellar, sell'a tur'cica = Turkish saddle.
se'men	L. = seed; adj. - sem'inal (seminal vesicle).
sem'iluna'ris	adj. L. sem'i = half, and lu'na = moon; hence, having a half-moon shape.
sem'imembrano'sus	adj. L. sem'i = half, and membra'na = membrane; hence, the ham muscle of which the upper half is membranous.
sem'itendino'sus	adj. L. semi' = half, and ten'do = I stretch; hence, the ham muscle of which the lower half is tendinous.
sep'tum	L. saep'tum = fenced in; hence, a dividing fence or partition.
serratus	adj. L. = notched like the edge of a saw (serrate).
sesamoid	adj. G. sesamo'des, -oid = like; like grains of sesame, hence, small bone in tendon at site of friction.
sial'ogram	G. si'alon = saliva, and gram'ma = a diagram; hence, a radiograph of a salivary duct.
sig'moid	adj. G. sig'ma, the form used at the end of a word having an S-shape; hence, S-shaped.
sin'ister	adj. L. = left-sided.
si'nus	L. = a hollow or space which may contain air, venous or arterial blood, lymph or serous fluid; adj. sinus'oid.
sole	the lower surface of the foot - see sole'us.
sole'us	adj. L. sole'a = flatfish or sandal; hence m. sole'us which does not enter the sole of the foot, but resembles the fish.
somat'ic	adj. G. so'ma = the body; hence, pertaining to the body frame but not to its viscera.
spasm	G. spas'mos = an involuntary contraction of a muscle; adj. - spastic, or spasmodic.
sperm'a	G. = seed or semen, adj. spermat'ic.
sphe'noid	adj. G. sphen = wedge, and -oeides = shape; hence the unpaired bone which is wedged into the base of the skull between the unpaired frontal and occipital.
sphinc'ter	G. sphink'ter = a tight binder; hence, a circular muscle which closes an orifice; adj. - sphincter'ic.
spine	L. spi'na = a thorn; hence, a sharp process, or a lay term for the vertebral column; adj. spinous, spinal.
splanchnic	adj. G. splanchnon = a viscus or internal organ; hence pertaining to viscera.
spleen	L. splen; hence; adj. - splen'ic.
sple'nium	G. splen'ion = a bandage. Hence, splen'ius capi'tis m., with its finely-woven fibres and its quarter-spiral twist from a coronal to a sagittal plane. The splenium of corpus callosum resembles a partly rolled bandage.

spongiosum	adj. G. spon'gia = a sponge.
squa'ma	L. = a scale (as of fish or reptile); adj. - squa'mous.
sta'pes	L. = stirrup; adj. - stape'dial, stape'dius.
stel'late	adj. L. stel'la = star.
ster'num	G. ster'non = chest or breast; adj. sternal.
stom'ach	G. stoma'chos = gullet or oesophagus, later applied to the wider part of the digestive tract just below the diaphragm; adj. - gas'tric.
strabis'mus	G. strabis'mos = squinting; hence, inability to focus both eyes on a given point.
stra'tum	L. = a covering sheet, or layer.
stri'a	L. = furrow, applied to a streak or stripe.
stria'tum	adj. L. stria'tus = furrowed; hence, cor'pus stria'tum, the caudate and lentiform nuclei connected by grey strands which traverse the internal capsule, giving the strands a striated appearance.
stro'ma	G. = bed or mattress, deep to the covers; hence, the supporting framework of an organ, as distinct from its special parenchyma.
sty'loid	adj. G. sty'los = an instrument for writing, and -ooid'es = like; hence a pen- or pencil-like structure.
suc'cus	L. = juice (s. entericus, the secretion of the small intestine).
sul'cus	L. = a groove.
su'perciliary	adj. L. su'per = above, and cil'ia = eyelid; hence, pertaining to the eyebrow.
su'perfic'ial	adj. L. su'per = above, and fa'cies = surface; hence, nearer the surface.
supe'rior	adj., comparative of L. su'perus = above.
su'pine	adj. L. supi'nus, recumbent on the back. Hence, also, the position of the hand with the dorsum facing posteriorly.
su'pina'tion	the act of turning the back of the hand to face posteriorly; verb - su'pinate.
su'pra	L. prefix = superior to.
sural	adj. L. sura = the calf.
sustentac'ulum	L. = a support, which sustains; s. tali - the ledge on the calcaneus supporting part of the talus.
su'ture	L. su'tura = a seam; the fibrous joints between cranial bones.
sympathet'ic	G. syn = with, and pathos = feeling; hence, the peripheral part of the autonomic nervous system which arises in the thoracolumbar region of the spinal cord and communicates with other nerves.
sym'physis	G. syn = with, and phy'sis = growth; hence a joint where union between the bones is by fibrocartilage - used for median joints. (Symphysis of the mandible is exceptional, the 2 halves fusing before the age of 2).
syn'apse	G. syn = with, and ap'tein = to join; hence, the zone through which an impulse passes from one neuron to another.

syn'chondro'sis	G. syn = with, and chon'dros = cartilage; hence, the union of 2 bones by cartilage.
syndesmosis	G. syn = with, and desmos = a band; hence, the union of 2 bones by fibrous tissue.
syn'drome	G. syn = with, and drom'os = running; hence, a group of signs and symptoms which is characteristic of a certain pathology.
syner'gist	G. syn = with, and er'gon = work; hence a muscle which cooperates with others in producing a given movement.
synovia	G. syn = with, and ovum = egg; hence the fluid in freely movable joints resembling egg-white; adj. syno'vial.
sys'tole	G. = contraction; hence the contraction of cardiac muscle.

T (t)

tae'nia (te'nia)	L. a tape or ribbon.
ta'lus	L. = ankle-bone; hence, the tortoise-shaped tarsal of the talocrural (ankle) joint.
tape'tum	L. a carpet or coverlet; hence the roof of the posterior horn of the lateral ventricle.
tar'sus	G. tarsos = a flat surface; hence the flat part of the foot, and later, the bones of the foot posterior to the metatarsals, adj. tarsal.
tec'tum	L. = roof; hence the roof of the midbrain.
teg'men	L. = covering (cf. integument = the skin).
tegmen'tum	L. = covering.
te'la	L. a web; e.g., a fold of pia mater containing a choroid plexus.
telenceph'alon	G. telos = end, and enkephalos = brain; hence the rostral part of the developing brain. (With the diencephalon, it makes up the prosencephalon).
tem'poral	L. tempus = time; hence, the temporal area of the scalp, where grey hair first appears, marking the progress of ageing.
ten'don	L. tendo = I stretch out.
ten'sor	L. tensus = stretched; hence a muscle which produces tension.
tentor'ium	L. = tent; tentorium cerebelli.
te'res	L. = rounded, cylindrical.
tes'tis, tes'ticle	L. a testis, the male gonad.
thal'amus	G. = bedroom - derivation rather obscure, though the posterior end of the thalamus is rounded and named pulvinar = cushion.
the'nar	G. = palm of hand; hence, the ball of the thumb.
tho'rax	G. = the chest, adj. thora'cic.
throm'bus	G. = a clot.
thy'mus	G. = sweetbread.

thy'roid	G. thyreos = shield, and -oeides = shape; hence, shaped like a shield (which shields the glottis).
tib'ia	L. = the shin-bone, adj. tib'ial.
ton'sil	L. tonsilla = tonsil (e.g., palatine t.).
to'rus	L. = a bulge.
trabec'ula	diminutive of L. trabs = a beam; hence the supporting fibres of a structure.
trache'a	G. tracheia = rough, referring to its corrugations.
tract	L. tractus = an elongated strand of wool or dough; hence a pathway for nerve fibres.
tra'gus	L. = goat, because of the beard-like tuft of hair on its internal aspect.
trans'verse	perpendicular to the long axis.
trape'zium	G. trape'zion = a trapezium - a quadrilateral with 2 sides parallel; hence, trapezius m., the diamond-shape of both trapezii mm. together.
trap'ezoid	resembling a trapezium.
tri'ceps	L. tres = 3, and cap'ut = head; hence a 3-headed muscle
trigem'inal	L. trigem'inus = triplets; hence, cranial n. V, with 3 large divisions.
tri'gone	L. trigo'num = a triangle.
trique'tral	L. trique'trus = 3-cornered.
triti'cea	L. tri'ticum = a grain of wheat; hence, the tiny cartilage in the lateral thyrohyoid lig.
trochan'ter	G. = a runner; hence, the bony landmark, the greater trochanter, which moves so obviously in running.
troch'lea	G. trochi'lia = a pulley.
trun'cus	L. = trunk (of a tree).
tu'ber	see tuberosity.
tu'bercle, tuber'culum	L. diminutive of tuber, a small prominence, usually bony.tuberos'ity - L. tu'ber = a swelling or lump, usually large and rough.
tuberos'ity	L. tuberositas = lumpy
tu'nica	L. shirt; hence a covering.
tym'panum	L. = a drum.

U (u)

ul'na	L. = elbow or arm; hence, the medial bone of the forearm.
umbili'cus	L. = the navel.
um'bo	L. = the boss on the centre of a shield, umbo of tympanic membrane.
un'cus	L. = hook; adj. - uncinat.
un'gual	pertaining to L. unguis = finger-nail.
ure'ter	G. oureter = passage from kidney to bladder.

ure'thra	G. urethra = passage from bladder to exterior.
u'terus	L. = womb.
u'tricle	diminutive of uterus.
u'vula	diminutive of L. u'va = grape.

V (v)

vagi'na	L. = sheath; hence, invagina'tion is the acquisition of a sheath by pushing inwards into a membrane, and evagina'tion is similar but produced by pushing outwards.
va'gus	L. = wandering; hence, cranial n. X, which leaves the head and neck to traverse the thorax and upper part of the abdomen.
val'late	L. valla'tus = walled; hence, the large papillae on the tongue which are depressed below the surface and are surrounded by a groove which is itself bounded by a wall.
vallec'ula	diminutive of L. val'lis = a fossa.
valve	L. val'va = the segment of a folding-door.
val'vula	diminutive of L. valva.
vas	L. = vessel (plural = va'sa).
vas'cular	L. vas'culum, diminutive of vas; hence, pertaining to blood vessels.
vein	L. ve'na; adj. ve'nous.
ve'lum	L. = curtain; veli = of a curtain.
ven'ter	L. = belly; hence, ven'tral, pertaining to the belly side.
ven'tricle	diminutive of L. ven'ter, a small belly.
ver'miform	L. ver'mis = a worm, and for'ma = shape; hence, worm-shaped.
ver'mis	L. = worm; hence, the segmented median part of the cerebellum.
ver'tebra	L. ver'to = I turn; hence, one of the movable bones of the backbone which seems to be shaped for rotation.
ver'tex	L. = summit; hence the highest point on the skull.
ver'tical	perpendicular (at a right angle) to the horizontal.
ve'sica	L. = bladder; adj. vesi'cal.
vesic'ula	diminutive of ve'sica; sem'inal ve'sicle.
ves'tibule	L. vestib'ulum = entrance hall.
vibris'sa	L. vibra're = to vibrate; hence, the hairs in the nasal vestibule which vibrate in the current of air.
vill'us	L. a hair; hence, a vascular, hair-like process, usually projecting from a mucous surface.
vin'cula	L. = fetters (singular: vin'culum); hence, the delicate vascular synovial bands passing to a tendon in the digits.
vis'cus	L. = an internal organ (plural, vis'cera), adj. vis'ceral.
vit'reous	L. vit'reus = glassy.

vo'mer	L. = plough-share; hence, the bone of the nasal septum which is split in two at its upper edge.
vortico'sae	L. vor'tex = whirl; hence the whirl-like arrangement of the 4 vv. vortico'sae leaving the eyeball.
vul'va	L. = the external female genitalia.

X (x)

xiph'oid	G. xiph'os = a sword, and -oeides = shape; hence, sword-shaped.
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Z (z)

zo'na	L. = a belt; hence, a circular band.
zon'ule	diminutive of zona.
zygomat'ic	G. zy'gon = yoke; hence, the bone joining the maxillary, frontal, temporal and sphenoid bones.
zy'gote	G. zy'gon = yoke; hence the fusion of the male and female gametes.