

Telefol Medical Vocabulary

by

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PART I – ENGLISH/TELEFOMIN

abcess (tooth)	abang
abdomen	mat
Adam's apple	del dung
afterbirth	ilum, man ilum
alive	kafanso
amniotic fluid	kokeb ok ?
ankle	kakmuk kun
anus	ol tem
appendix	ol dakat
arm, lower	fet kun
arm, lower (small bone)	fet ning
arm, upper	bituk kun
armpit	takan
armpit, hair of	takan kon
artery	mumel
back, backbone	dang kun
baby	man unak, man katib
babies	man kangkang
bag of waters	ilum, man ilum
beard	bon kon
belly	mat
big (person)	kiman
bile	tom, ok tom, tomal
birth, she has given – to a girl	kobu
birth, she has given – to a boy	dobu
birthmark	dut
bladder	iman san
blind	tin tukul
blood isak	isak
blood clot	dokuk
bloodshot (eye)	tin isak

body	dam
body, lower half of	makal
boil (of skin)	ilin
bone	kun
bone, dislocated	kun ula kulu
bone, marrow	afal
brain	dabal kul
breast	muk
breast bone	tub kun
burned (skin)	kwek kosu
carbuncle	ilin
cataract	tin ib
centipede	inabok
centre	babul
cheek	akak kal
cheekbone	timtang kun
chest	imilang kun
chest, side of	malan, malan kun
chew it!	tlimala
chew, Don't – it!	tlimin ba
chicken pox	dlibin
child	man katib
children	man kangkang
coccix	dam kun
cold, a	in
cold, I feel	dil tebeb nebu
cold, he/she feels	dil tebeb ebu
collar bone	kwin kun
colon	fakin
constipated (hard stools)	ol kun tebesu
constipated (irregular)	ol tem katibu; ol (tem) baki kobu
cord, umbilical	abin, man abin
core of boil	du
cough	kokonin, ilmeb
cough, chronic	ilmeb dam, mamunin

crippled in one limb only	takanok
crutches	kafung
cry, Don't____ !	amemin ba
cut, a	abang
cut	baki kobi
dead	kanba, kanbu
deaf	tlong kom
defecate	ol dub kamin
delirious, is	ilumilum kebe
diarrhoea, have	ol ok felamin
dirty (skin)	ninak
dislocated bone	kun ula kulu
Drink it!	unelala
dysentery, have	ol isak dub kamin
dumb	weng kabam, weng kabat
ear, external	tlun kal
ear, internal	tlong kem
Eat it!	unelala
elbow	ing kun
epidemic (with fatalities)	win fiyumok
excreta	ol
eye	tin
eye matter (foreign)	tin ifib ol, tin ifib ilol
eye matter (night)	tin ol, tin mafing
eyebrow	tin dung kon
eyelash	tin kon
face	tabit kun, tabikkun
faeces	ol
faint	tin bul
fat (person)	kiman
fat (versus flesh)	tukul
fever, I have	(kaldim) mamin tebeb nebu
fever, he/she has	(kaldim) mamin tebeb ebu
finger	sakal, sikil
fingernail	sakal blung, sikil blung

fire	at
flesh	dim
food (staple, starch)	iman
foolish	ilumilum
foot	yan
forearm	fet kun
forearm, smaller bone of	fet ning
forehead	tabit kun, tabikkun
froth	mok
gall bladder	tom, tomal
gashed	baki kobi
giddy	tin bul
goitre	del tamtam
groin	fatal
gums, upper	detat kal
hair (of body)	win kon
hair (of chest)	tub kon
hair (of head)	dabom kon
hair, underarm	takan kon
hand	sakal, sikil
head	dabom, dabom kun
head, back of	dabal kun
head louse	tim
headache, I have a splitting	dabom faka nebo
heart	babul
hernia	tamtam
hip	makak kun
hot, I am	(kaldim) mamin tebeb nebu
hot, he/she is	(kaldim) mamin tebeb ebu
hunchback	dang sakmon
hungry, I am	imam teb tebeb nebu
hungry, he/she is	imam teb tebeb ebu
hurts me	atul tebeb nebu, fuyab tebeb nebu
hurts him/her	atul tebeb ebu, fuyab tebeb ebu
ill, I am	mafak albi, mafalik albi

incisors	sit maton
inflamed and swollen	fitobu
insane	ilumilum
intestine, large	fakin
intestine, small	ol tem
jaw	bon, bon kun
jawbone	bon kun
kidney	dal
knee	katun kun
knee, back of	mel kun
knuckle	sakal dung, sikil dung
lame	katun dam
lame from paralysis	ibit, ibanbu
laryngitis	del baki kobu
leg	yan
leg, lower	tlakkun kun
legs plus pelvis	makal
lice (head)	tim
lips	fikaluk
liquor (foetal)	kokeb ok ?
liver	in
louse (head)	tim
lump	tamtam
lungs	kakab kon
mad	ilumilum
malnutrition (thin)	kunkemanim
marrow, bone	afal
measles	kalbabok
meat	dimdum
medicine man	usong
membrane (of foetal sac)	ilum, man ilum
menstrual blood	nok isak
mestruation, menstrual house	dung-am
midwife, act as	man dumikimin
migraine, I have a – headache	dabom faka nebo

milk	muk, muk ok
molar	sit akak, sit sum
mole	bambun
mouth	bon tem
mucus, nasal	in
mumps	kum eluk fitobu
mustache	fikal kon
mute	weng kabam, weng kabat
nape	detak kun
nasal mucus	in
nauseated, I am	usan fumano akanbi
navel	abin dung
neck, back of	detak kun
neck bone	detak kun, dong kun
nephritis	kongokam
nose	mitus kun, mitum
nostril	mitum tem
occiput	dabal kun
oedema (nephritis ?)	kongokam
pain	atul, fuyab
palate	detat kal
palm (of hand)	sakal ban
pancreas	kwanal
paralysed in one limb only	takanok
paralysed below waist	makal fakanok
pelvis	makak kun
pelvis plus legs	makal
perspiration	ifak
phlegm	in
pierced	baki kобу
pimple	ol
placenta	ilum, man ilum
plump	kiman
pregnant	kumunso, dubinso
pus	kul

recovered	bam daba, bam dabu
rectum	ol tem
ribs	malan kun
rib, bottom – of side	malanfafet
ringworm	unang
Rub it!	tlamala
Don't rub it!	tlamin ba
salt	yol
"sangguma" (secret murder)	bit
scalp	dabal kal
scratch, Don't - !	dengdeng kemin ba
shaman	usong
shin	kabmit kun
shoulder	nakal kun
shoulder blade	mak kun
sick, I am	mafak albi, mafakalik albi
skin	kal
skin, scaly disease of	ilim, ilim dam, amsang, amsanggam
skinny	kunkemanim
skull	dabom kun
sleep	aminemin
"sleepy dust"	tin ol, tin mafing
snake	inab
sorcery	tamon
solar plexis	babul
sole (of foot)	yan ban
sore	abang
sorcery	tamon
spider	donsuk
spinal cord	dang kun afal
spine	dang kun
splinter	bung
sprained	daka kwabu
spittle	mok
stick (wood)	adang

staple food (starch)	imam
stomach	mat
stomatitis	sit bilanbo
stool (faeces)	ol
Swallow it!	mumulik unelala
swelling, painless	tamtam
swollen and inflamed	fitobu
tare	iman
tears	tinak
teeth	sit, sit kun
teeth, lower	sit kakam
teeth, upper	sit dong
temple (of head)	tabit kun, tabikkun
tendon	mumel
testicles	abulob
thigh	ung
thighbone	diling
thighbone, ball of	tamkun kun
thin (person)	kunkemanim
throat	del, del tem
tinea	ilim, ilim dam, amsang, amsanggam
toe, big	yan ok
toe, tip of big	yan dabom
toe, little	yan kakkat
toenail	yan blung
tongue	fong
tongue, middle of	fong ibak
tongue, root of	fong makam
tongue, tip of	fong bul
tooth	sit, sit kun
toothache	sit unanbo
tuberculosis	mamunin, ilmeb dam (chronic dry cough); mamunin isak, kokonin isak (cough up blood)
ulcer	abang, abang kim

umbilical cord	abin, man abin
umbilicus	abin dung
urine	iman
uterus	man am
vagina	nok, nokkem
vegetable, green	ason
vein	mumel
vomit	usan
vomit, to	usan fumin
walking stick	kafung
wart	bambeng
Wash him/her!	oksam uka emala
wasp	ibal
water	ok
whiskers	bon kon
womb	man am
wood	at
worms, intestinal	ol kasen
wrist	bukub, fet bukub
yaws	ubi kon, ubi kon ok

PART II – TELEFOMIN/ENGLISH

abang	sore, abcess (tooth), ulcer, a cut
abang kim	ulcer
abin	umbilical cord
abin dung	navel, umbilicus
abulob	testicles
adang	a stick (wood)
afal	bone marrow
akak kal	check
amemin ba	Don't cry!
aminemin	sleep
amsang, amsanggam	tinea, scaly skin disease
ason	green vegetable
at	wood, fire
atul	pain
atul tebeb nebu	it hurts me
atul tebeb ebu	it hurts him/her
babul	heart, solar plexis, centre
baki kобу	pierced, gashed, cut
baki kобу	blocked, closed over
bam daba, bam dabu	recovered
bambeng	wart
bambum	mole
bit	secret murder, "sangguma"
bituk kun	upper arm
bon	jaw
bon kon	whiskers, beard
bon kun	jaw, jawbone
bon tem	mouth
bukub	wrist
bung	splinter
dabal kal	scalp
dabal kul	brain
dabal kun	occiput, back of head
dabom	head

dabom faka nebo	I have a splitting headache, migraine
dabom kon	hair (of head)
dabom kun	skull, head
daka kwabu	sprained
dal	kidney
dam	body
dam kun	coccyx
dang kun	back, backbone, spine
dang kun afal	spinal cord
dang sakmon	hunchback
del	throat
del baki kobu	laryngitis
del dung	Adam's apple
del tamtam	goitre
del tem	throat
dengdeng kemin ba	Don't scratch it!
detak kun	back of neck, neck bone
detat kal	palate and upper gums
dil tebeb nebu	I feel cold
dil tebeb ebu	he/she feels cold
diling	thigh bone
dim	flesh
dimdum	meat
dlibin	chicken pox
dobu	she has given birth to a boy
dokuk	blood clot
donsuk	spider
dong kun	neck bone
du	core of boil
dubinso	pregnant
dungam	menstruation, menstrual house
dut	birthmark
fakin	colon, large intestine
fatal	groin
fet bukub	wrist

fet kun	lower arm, forearm
fet ning	smaller bone of forearm
fikal kon	mustache
fikaluk	lips
fitobu	swollen and inflamed
fong	tongue
fong bul	tip of tongue
fong ibak	middle of tongue
fong makam	root of tongue
fuyab	pain
fuyab tebab nebu	it hurts me
fuyab tebab ebu	it hurts him/her
ibal	wasp
ibit, ibitanbu	lame
ifak	perspiration
ilim, ilim dam	tinea, scaly skin disease
ilin	boil, carbuncle
ilmeb	cough
ilmeb dam	chronic cough, tuberculosis
ilum	placenta, afterbirth, membrane, bag of waters
ilumilum	insane, foolish, mad
ilumilum kebe	delirious
iman	urine
iman	taro, staple food (starch)
iman san	bladder
iman teb tebeb nebu	I am hungry
iman teb tebeb ebu	he/she is hungry
imilang kun	chest
in	nasal mucus, phlegm, a cold
in	liver
inab	snake
inabok	centipede
ing kun	elbow
isak	blood

kabmit kun	shin
kafanso	alive
kafung	walking, stick, crutches
kakab kon	lungs
kakmuk kun	ankle
kal	skin
kal babok	measles
kaldim mamin tebeb nebu	I am hot, I have fever
kaldim mamin tebeb ebu	he/she is hot, he/she has fever
kanba, kanbu	dead
katun dam	lame
katun kun	knee
kiman	fat, plump, big (person)
kobu	she has given birth to a girl
kokeb ok ?	amniotic fluid, liquor
kokonin	cough
kongokam	nephritis, oedema
kul	pus
kum eluk fitobu	mumps
kumunso	pregnant
kun	bone
kun ula kulu	dislocated bone
kunkemanim	skinny, thin (person), malnutrition
kwanal	pancreas
kwek kosu	burned (skin)
kwin kun	collar bone
mafak albi, mafakalik albi	I am sick, ill
mak kun	shoulder blade
makak kun	pelvis, hip
makal	lower half of body, pelvis plus legs
makal fakanok	paralysed below waist
malan	side of chest
malanfafet	bottom rib at side
malan kun	ribs, side of chest
mamin tebeb nebu	I am hot, I have fever

mamin tebeb ebu	he/she is hot, he/she has fever
mamunin	chronic dry cough, tuberculosis
man abin	umbilical cord
man am	uterus, womb
man dobu	she has given birth to a boy
man dumikimin	act as midwife
man ilum	placenta, afterbirth, membrane
man kangkang	babies, children
man katib	baby, child
man kobu	she has given birth to a girl
man unak	baby
mat	stomach, belly, abdomen
mel kun	back of knee
mitum	nose
mitum kun	nose, nose bone
mitum tem	nostril
mok	spittle, froth
muk	breast, milk
muk ok	milk
mumel	tendon, vein, artery
mumulik unelala	Swallow it!
nakal kun	shoulder
ninak	dirty
nok, nokkem	vagina
nok isak	menstrual blood
ok	water
ok tom	bile
oksam uka emala	Wash him/her!
ol	pimple
ol	excreta, faeces, stool
ol dakat	appendix
ol dub kamin	defecate (normal)
ol isak dub kamin	have dysentery
ol kasen	intestinal worms
ol kun tebesu	constipated, hard stools

ol ok felamin	have diarrhoea
ol tem	small intestine, anus, rectum
ol (tem) baki kobu	constipated, irregular
ol tem katibu	constipated, irregular
sakal	hand, fingers
sakal ban	palm (of hand)
sakal blung	finger nails
sakal dung	knuckles
sikil	hand, fingers
sikil ban	palm (of hand)
sikil blung	fingernails
sikil dung	knuckles
sit	tooth, teeth
sit akak	molars
sit bilanbo	stomatitis
sit dong	upper teeth
sit kakam	lower teeth
sit kun	tooth, teeth
sit maton	incisors
sit sum	molars
sit unanbe	toothache
tabit kun, tabikkun	forehead, temple, face
takan	armpit
takan kon	underarm hair
takanok	paralysed in one limb only
tamkun kun	ball of thighbone
tamon	sorcery
tamtam	lump, painless swelling, hernia
tim	head louse
timtang kun	cheekbone
tin	eye
tinak	tears
tin bul	giddy, faint
tin dung kon	eyebrow
tin ib	cataract

tin ifib ilol, tin ifib ol	eye matter (foreign)
tin isak	blood shot eyes
tin kon	eyelash
tin mafing	“sleepy dust”, eye matter (night)
tin ol	“sleepy dust”, eye matter (night)
tin tukul	blind
tlakkun kun	lower leg
tlamala	Rub it!
tlamin ba	Don’t rub it!
tlimala	Chew it!
tlimin ba	Don’t chew it!
tlong kem	internal ear
tlong kom	deaf
tlun kal	outer ear, external ear
tom, tomal	gall bladder, bile
tub kon	chest hair
tub kun	breast bone
tukul	fat (versus flesh)
ubi kon, ubi kon ok	yaws
unang	woman
unang	ringworm
unelala	Eat it! Drink it!
ung	thigh
usan	vomit
usan fumin	to vomit
usan fumano akanbi	I am nauseated
usong	shaman, medicine man
weng kabam, weng kabat	mute, dumb
win fiyumok	epidemic (with fatalities)
win kon	body hair
yan	foot, leg
yan ban	sole (of foot)
yan blung	toenail
yan dabom	tip of big toe (what one stubs)
yan kakkat	little toe

yan ok	big toe
yol	salt

A NOTE ON TELEFOMIN ORTHOGRAPHY

The orthography used here is that of Rev. McArthur, except that his g between vowels is here written k, and his k between vowels is here written kk or a word break.

Each of the symbols a, e, i, o, u has 4 distinct pronunciations involving musical tone. Until the orthography is revised to show the differences, each word must be learned by mimicry, e.g. iman ‘food’, iman ‘urine’.

The consonant symbols represent something similar to our English pronunciation, except in the following cases: b at the end of words and before a consonant sounds like p; b between vowels sounds like v made with both lips; k between vowels sounds part way between a hard g and the ch at the end of Scottish and German words; l between vowels tends to be flapped.