

So much from a single Greek word! - “path”: from Greek = “feeling” or “disease”

pathology	noun	1) medical term meaning the causal study of disease 2) laboratory in hospital where medical tests are carried out
pathologist	noun	1) an expert in the study of diseases 2) someone who examines a corpse
pathological	adj	in a diseased condition
pathogen	noun	microorganism bringing about disease
pathogenic	adj	a medical term that describes viruses, bacteria, and other types of germs that can cause some kind of disease. The flu, various parasites, and athlete's foot fungus are all pathogenic
pathos	noun	- an element in experience or in artistic representation evoking pity or compassion - a strong emotion of sympathetic pity
pathetic	adj	1) arousing pity, especially through vulnerability or sadness 2) ridiculous
sympathy	noun	1) feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else's misfortune 2) understanding between people; common feeling
(un)sympathetic	adj	(not) having sympathy
to sympathize	verb	to have sympathy
empathy	noun	psychological identification with and understanding of feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of others
empathic or empathetic	adj	of, relating to, or characterized by empathy, the psychological identification with the feelings, thoughts, or attitudes of others: e.g. a sensitive, empathetic school counsellor
to empathize	verb	to share/imagine someone's feelings either by strong imagination or similar experience
apathy	noun	the condition of having no feelings
apathetic	adj	showing or feeling no interest, enthusiasm, or concern
antipathy	noun	the condition of having feelings against something or someone
antipathetic	adj	showing or feeling a strong aversion
psychopath	noun	someone with a “diseased” mind
psychopathic	adj	suffering from or constituting a chronic mental disorder with abnormal or violent social behavior
sociopath	noun	someone with a “diseased” way of interacting with society - a person with a personality disorder manifesting itself in extreme antisocial attitudes and behavior and a lack of conscience

The Greek root word path can mean either “**feeling**” or “**disease**”. So as not to be **apathetic** in our “feelings” about path, let’s follow this short but informative “path” through its two meanings.

“**feeling**”: If you have **sympathy** for another person, you “feel” with her. Therefore, a **sympathetic** person can “feel” with another, but may not necessarily have experienced the same emotions herself. **Empathy** consists of mutually shared “feelings.” Thus, if you are an **empathic** or **empathetic** person, you “feel” and thus identify with another person’s woes because you have experienced similar “feelings” yourself. **Apathy**, on the other hand, is lack of “feeling” altogether. An **apathetic** person does not care at all about the “feelings” of another suffering human being. That doesn’t mean that he holds **antipathy** or a “feeling” against someone, however, as someone who is **antipathetic** might.

“**disease**.” Notice that “disease” and “feeling” are related in terms of not “feeling” so well when you have a “disease.” Physicians know that **pathology** is the study of “disease.” Bacteria or viruses are **pathogens** that cause bodily “disease.” Psychiatrists are physicians who study “diseases” of the mind. A **pathological** liar has the “disease” of lying because he/she can’t help doing so repeatedly. A **psychopath** has a “diseased” mind, and so does inappropriate things in society. A **sociopath** is somewhat similar in that he has a “diseased” way of acting in society, as does a **psychopath**.