

# 25 At the doctor's

## 1 Basic vocabulary

Complete the following sentences with the words below:

cough symptom appointment  
virus rash infection  
medicine chemist's prescription

1. Could I come in late tomorrow? My wife and I have an **appointment** with the doctor.
2. That's a nasty **cough**, you've got. You've really got to stop smoking.
3. The main **symptom** of measles is little red spots all over your body.
4. I sometimes get a **rash** on my face after I've shaved.
5. I'm taking antibiotics for this ear **infection**.
6. Last winter there was a really nasty **virus** going round.
7. Very often, rest is the best **medicine**!
8. Did you take that **prescription** to the **chemist's**?

Now translate the words in colour:

1. Do you have any trouble **swallowing**? . . . .
2. Does this **hurt**? . . . .
3. Take a deep breath. . . . .
4. Breathe deeply. . . . .
5. Does it **itch**? . . . .
6. Has the infection cleared up? . . . .

## 2 Answering the doctor's questions

Decide who is speaking. Mark each example D (the doctor) or P (the patient):

1. What seems to be the matter? **D**
2. It's keeping me awake at night. **P**
3. Where exactly does it hurt? **D**
4. It's very painful when I swallow. **P**
5. It hurts more when I breathe in. **P**
6. Now, take a deep breath. **D**
7. Is there anything I can **take for** it? **P**
8. Have you had any other symptoms? **D**
9. It's nothing to worry about. **D**
10. I'll give you something to **relieve the pain**. **D**
11. I've got very bad wind. **P**
12. I had it when I was a child. **P**

## 3 Going to the doctor's

Put these events in the most logical order:

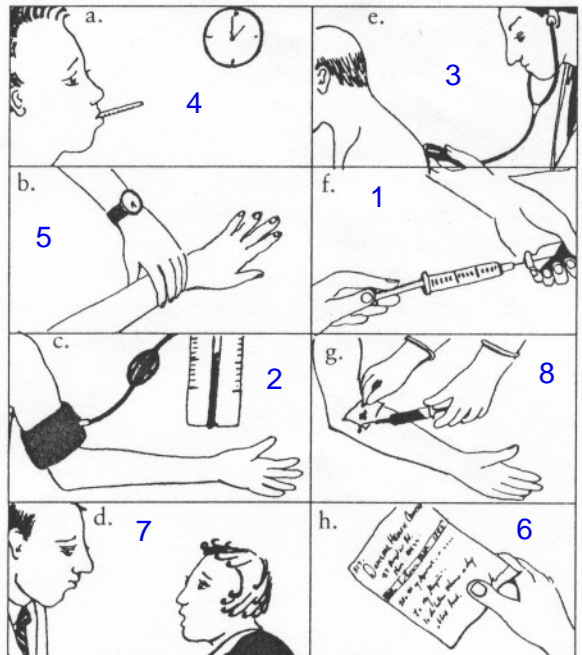
- a. I went to see the doctor.
  - b. I went to the chemist's to get the medicine.
  - c. He said I had a chest infection.
  - d. He examined me.
  - e. I didn't feel very well.
  - f. He gave me a prescription for antibiotics.
  - g. I made an appointment to see the doctor.
- 1 **e**. 2 **g**. 3 **a**. 4 **d**. 5 **c**. 6 **f**. 7 **b**.

## 4 Verb collocations

Use the verbs below to complete the following phrases. Then match the phrases with the pictures.

take give listen to

1. **give** . . . you an injection
2. **take** . . . your blood pressure
3. **listen to** . . . your chest
4. **take** . . . your temperature
5. **take** . . . your pulse
6. **give** . . . you a prescription
7. **give** . . . you a check-up
8. **take** . . . a blood sample



## 5 Medicines

Here is a list of common medicines. Match them up with the problems below:

- a. sleeping pills / tablets 1
- b. antibiotics 3
- c. painkillers 4
- d. eye drops 5
- e. cough mixture 2

- 1. You can't sleep.
- 2. You have a dry cough.
- 3. You have a chest infection.
- 4. You have very bad backache.
- 5. You have an eye infection.

Americans talk about drugs instead of tablets or pills. In Britain drugs usually mean heroin, cocaine etc. In the United States a chemist's is called a drugstore.

## 6 Specialists

Your doctor might refer you to another professional to treat a particular problem. First mark the strong stress in each word. The first one is done for you. Then match them up with their speciality.

- 1. dietitian b
- 2. optician a
- 3. physiotherapist h
- 4. psychiatrist f
- 5. chiropodist c
- 6. paediatrician g
- 7. gynaecologist d
- 8. rheumatologist e

- a. You need glasses.
- b. You are overweight.
- c. You have ingrown toenails.
- d. You are trying to have a baby.
- e. You have arthritis.
- f. You are very depressed.
- g. Your two-year-old son is not well.
- h. You hurt your shoulder playing tennis.

## 7 Alternative medicine

Here are seven words associated with alternative medicine. First mark the strong stress in each word. The first one is done for you. Then match the words and their descriptions.

- hypnotism 2
- massage 3
- reflexology 6
- acupuncture 5
- herbal remedies 4
- aromatherapy 1
- homeopathy 7

- 1. Treating people with special oils, which are used in a bath or rubbed into the skin.
- 2. Treating somebody by putting them into a deep sleep and controlling what they think.
- 3. Treating people by rubbing various parts of their body to relieve pain.
- 4. Treating people with medicines made from special herbs and plants.
- 5. Treating people with needles to stimulate nerve impulses.
- 6. Treating people by pressing parts of their feet in order to treat problems in other parts of their body.
- 7. Giving people very very small amounts of drugs.

Have you ever used any of the above alternative therapies?

Explain the following words:

- referral
- physician vs. physicist
- GP
- quack
- consulting room/doctor's office
- health insurance company
- drug covered by health insurance