

A What are your symptoms?



rash



bruise



lump



spots



a black eye

I've got a cold / a cough / a sore throat / a temperature [a higher temperature than normal] / a stomach ache / chest pains / earache / a pain in my side / a rash on my chest / spots / a bruise on my leg [e.g. after playing football] / a black eye [e.g. after being hit in the eye] / a lump on my arm / indigestion [after eating too fast] / sickness and diarrhoea / [daɪəˈrɪə] [an upset stomach which makes you vomit and need to go to the toilet frequently] / sunburn / painful joints [e.g. ankles, knees, wrists, shoulders] / blisters [after wearing new, tight shoes].

I feel sick / dizzy [my head is spinning] / breathless / shivery [cold and hot] / faint [light-headed].

I am depressed / constipated [not able to go to the toilet] / tired all the time.

I've lost my appetite / voice; I can't sleep, my nose itches [I want to scratch it], my leg hurts.

B What do doctors do?

They take your temperature, listen to your chest, look in your ears, examine you, take your blood pressure, ask you some questions and weigh and measure you before sending you to the hospital for further tests.



C What's the diagnosis?

You've got flu / chickenpox / mumps [singular noun] / pneumonia /nɪˈjəʊməniə/ / rheumatism /ˈruːmətɪzəm/ an ulcer / a virus / a bug / something that's going round.

You've broken your wrist and sprained/dislocated your ankle.

You're pregnant / a hypochondriac /haɪpəˈkɒndrɪæk/.

He died of lung cancer / a heart attack / a brain haemorrhage /ˈhemərɪdʒ/ AIDS.

D What does the doctor prescribe?

- Take one tablet three times a day after meals.
- Take a teaspoonful of medicine last thing at night.
- Rub this ointment on you and don't spend too long in the sun without suncream.
- We'll get the nurse to put a bandage on your wrist.
- You'll need to have some injections before you go to the Amazon.
- I'll ask the surgeon when he can fit you in for an operation.
- You'll have to have your leg put in plaster until the break mends.
- I think you should have total bed rest for a week.

E What might the doctor ask you?

What would you say if the doctor asked you the following questions?

Do you have health insurance? Have you ever had any operations?
Are you taking any medication? Are you allergic to anything?

Exercises

53.1 Match the diseases with their symptoms.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1 flu | swollen glands in front of ear, earache or pain on eating |
| 2 pneumonia | burning pain in abdomen, pain or nausea after eating |
| 3 rheumatism | rash starting on body, slightly raised temperature |
| 4 chickenpox | dry cough, high fever, chest pain, rapid breathing |
| 5 mumps | headache, aching muscles, fever, cough, sneezing |
| 6 an ulcer | swollen, painful joints, stiffness, limited movement |

53.2 What does the doctor or nurse use the following things for?

EXAMPLE stethoscope For listening to a patient's chest.

- 1 thermometer 2 scales 3 syringe 4 scalpel

53.3 Look at the statements (a) to (h) in D opposite. Which do you think the doctor said to each of the following patients?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Anne with bad sunburn. | 5 Liz with a bad cough. |
| 2 Jo who's broken her leg. | 6 Sam who needs his appendix out. |
| 3 John who's off to the Tropics. | 7 Rose suffering from exhaustion. |
| 4 Paul with flu. | 8 Alf who's sprained his wrist. |

53.4 Complete the following table.

noun	adjective	verb
.....	breathless
.....	faint
.....	shivery
.....	dislocated
ache
treatment
.....	swollen

53.5 What medical problems might you have if ...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 you wear shoes that rub? | 7 you eat food you're allergic to? |
| 2 you eat too fast? | 8 you run unusually fast for a bus? |
| 3 you smoke a lot? | 9 you eat food that is bad? |
| 4 you play football? | 10 a mosquito bites you? |
| 5 you go skiing? | 11 you get wet on a cold day? |
| 6 you stay out in the sun too long? | 12 you think you're ill all the time? |

53.6 Think of illnesses you (or members of your family or friends) have had. What were the symptoms and what did the doctor prescribe?

Follow-up: Look at the health page of a magazine or newspaper. Make a note of any new vocabulary on the theme that you find there. Look in your medicine cabinet at home, at school or work. Can you name everything that you find there?