

Going to the Doctor



In this lesson, you will learn useful words for expressing health symptoms to a doctor. It's a good idea to practice describing your symptoms before you go to a doctor's office. Let's start by talking about your current health situation.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where do you go when you feel sick?
2. How do you feel right now? Do you have any aches and pains?
3. Are you comfortable talking to a doctor in English? Why or why not?
4. Have you suffered from a cold or flu lately?
How did you catch the cold or flu?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the illnesses and symptoms with the body's reactions.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ 1. flu | a) sore chest |
| _____ 2. rash | b) can't swallow |
| _____ 3. nauseous | c) can't walk |
| _____ 4. cough | d) purple skin |
| _____ 5. sore throat | e) can't bend over |
| _____ 6. cut finger | f) red, itchy skin |
| _____ 7. sprained ankle | g) sneezing |
| _____ 8. bruise | h) feeling like vomiting |
| _____ 9. backache | i) fever and chills |
| _____ 10. cold | j) bleeding |

Dialogue Reading

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Circle any new words or phrases that you need to practice.

Dr. Barnes: Good morning, Mr. Perez. **How are you feeling today?**

Mr. Perez: **I have a sore throat.**

Dr. Barnes: **When did it start?**

Mr. Perez: **Three days ago.**

Dr. Barnes: **Do you have any other symptoms?**

Mr. Perez: **I have a slight fever.**

Dr. Barnes: Okay. **I'll have a look at your throat.**
I'm going to give you a prescription for an antibiotic.

Mr. Perez: How often should I take it?

Dr. Barnes: **Take one pill three times a day for seven days.**
You'll probably start to feel better in a couple of days.

Mr. Perez: Thank you, Doctor Barnes.

Practice

Work with your partner. Role-play the dialogue on page 2, substituting the different expressions below. Then switch roles.

1. How are you feeling today?

- What seems to be the problem?
- What's bothering you?
- What's the matter?

2. I have a sore throat.

- I have a terrible cough.
- I have a migraine headache.
- I have a stomachache.
- I have a rash on my arm.
- I have a slight fever.
- It hurts when I swallow.
- I have a bad cold.
- I feel nauseous.
- I am vomiting.
- My skin is very itchy.
- I have the chills.

3. When did it start?

- How long have you had it?
- How long has it been bothering you?

4. Three days ago.

- It started last week.
- I've had it since Monday.
- I've had it for about three days.

5. Do you have any other symptoms?

- Does anything else hurt?
- Is anything else bothering you?

6. I have a slight fever.

- *(See #2.)*

7. I'll have a look at your throat.

- Let me look at your arm.
- I'll examine your ears.

8. I'm going to give you a prescription for an antibiotic.

- I'll write you a prescription for some cough syrup.
- Here's a prescription for a painkiller.
- Here's a prescription for some ointment.

9. Take one pill three times a day for seven days.

- Take the cough syrup before bedtime every night for a week.
- Use these drops twice a day for ten days.
- Apply the cream to your rash twice a day until it disappears.

10. You'll probably start to feel better in a couple of days.

- You'll probably start to feel better by the end of the week.
- You'll probably start to feel better in three or four days.
- It will clear up in a few days.

Listening Practice

Listen to the recording of the dialogue from page 2. Fill in the missing words as you listen. Listen again. Now look back at page 2 and check your work. Did you fill in the correct words? Did you spell everything correctly?

Dr. Barnes: Good morning, Mr. Perez. How are you _____?

Mr. Perez: I have _____.

Dr. Barnes: When _____?

Mr. Perez: _____.

Dr. Barnes: Do you have any other _____?

Mr. Perez: I have _____.

Dr. Barnes: Okay. I'll _____ your throat.

I'm going to give you a _____ for an _____.

Mr. Perez: _____ should I take it?

Dr. Barnes: Take one pill _____ times a day for _____.

You'll probably start to feel better in _____.

Mr. Perez: _____.

Write Your Own Dialogue

Write a dialogue with a partner using phrases from page 3. One of you will be a doctor and the other will be a patient. Practice and present the dialogue to your class.

Review

Task 1

LISTEN & ANSWER

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions.
Your teacher will tell you if you have to write or say the answers.

1. Why did Mr. Perez go to the doctor?

2. How long has he been feeling sick?

3. Does Mr. Perez have any other symptoms? If yes, which ones?

4. What does the doctor prescribe?

5. What should happen in a few days?

Review cont.

Task 2

I NEED A DOCTOR

List five problems you could have with your health.
Write (or say) them as if you are talking to a doctor.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Task 3

CALLING THE DOCTOR

Pretend to call a doctor's office during off-hours. Leave a message on an answering machine about why your child or spouse needs an appointment with the doctor. State your name and the name of your family member. Then list at least two health concerns. Make sure to leave a phone number so the doctor's office can call you back.

Example

Answering Machine:

Hello. You have reached the office of Dr. Gold. Our office is now closed. Please leave a detailed message after the tone and we will return your call. If this is a medical emergency, please call health services at 1-800-T-H-E-B-O-D-Y.

Message:

Hello. This is Connor Quinn. I'm calling about my daughter, Nicola. Nicola has a really sore throat. I think she may have an ear infection, too. She is in a lot of pain, and I think she may need some antibiotics. I'd like to make an appointment with Doctor Quinn tomorrow if possible. Please call me back at 222-8907. Thank you.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

A patient goes to the doctor because he has a sore throat. Students learn vocabulary and expressions to use when going to the doctor.

LEVEL: Low Int

TIME: 1.5 hours

TAGS: doctor, doctor's day, health, going to a doctor, symptoms, dialogues

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Discuss as a class or in small groups. Individual answers.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. i | 3. h | 5. b | 7. c | 9. e |
| 2. f | 4. a | 6. j | 8. d | 10. g |

Dialogue Reading

Give your students time to read the dialogue in pairs.

Practice

Have your students read the dialogue again and practice subbing in some of the different expressions.

Listening Practice

Have students complete the dialogue by listening to the recording or by having two students read the completed dialogue from page 2.

Write Your Own Dialogue

Encourage your students to use vocabulary from the model.

Review (Assessment Tasks)

The following tasks can be used for assessment purposes and/or review practice. You can save all of the tasks until the end or assess your students throughout the lesson.

TASK 1

Play the audio from this lesson. Then assign the questions. You can decide if you want your students to say or write the answers.

- Mr. Perez went to the doctor because he has a sore throat.
- He has been feeling sick for three days.
- Yes, he also has a bit of a fever.
- The doctor prescribes an antibiotic.
- Mr. Perez should feel better after a few days on the antibiotic.

TASK 2

Use this task to assess vocabulary retention and speaking or writing skills. For a speaking assessment, you can pretend to be the doctor.

TASK 3

For this task, you could get your students to make a recording of their message and send it to you. Or, you could have one student read the answering machine message out loud and have another student leave a message.

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Practice*. Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Practise* (when used as a verb; *Practice* when used as a noun). Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.

