

Let’s talk health & illness

(medical vocabulary in English)

These exercises are suitable for a range of levels. You can use all of them or just the ones that are suitable for your students’ level of English.

**Exercise 1. Warm-up**

**Illnesses & cures** (intermediate level)

Match it up.

Find a cure for each health problem.

1. antibiotics
2. aftersun
3. vitamin C
4. filling
5. antihistamines
6. syrup
7. painkillers
8. paracetamol

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. sunburn | 2. scurvy | 3. an infection | 4. cavity |
| 5. a cough | 6. migraine | 7. high temperature | 8. hay fever |

Answers: a/3 b/1 c/2 d/4 e/8 f/5 g/6 h/7

**Exercise 2. Body parts & illnesses** (intermediate/upper intermediate level)

Match it up.

Which part(s) of the body are affected by these illnesses and conditions? Match the expressions from the blue column with the best match from the green column.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BLUE: | GREEN: |
| a. lower abdomen | 1. migraine |
| b. head | 2. mumps |
| c. stomach | 3. melanoma |
| d. skin | 4. indigestion |
| e. intestines | 5. alopecia |
| f. teeth | 6. appendicitis |
| g. eyes | 7. depression |
| h. the reproductive system | 8. rickets |
| i. gums | 9. scurvy |
| j. heart | 10. bunion |
| k. bones | 11. infertility |
| l. the mind | 12. conjunctivitis |
| m. hair | 13. arrhythmia |
| n. blood | 14. cavities |
| o. glands | 15. anaemia |
| p. feet | 16. tapeworm |

Answers: a/6 b/1 c/4 d/3 e/16 f/14 g/12 h/11 i/9 j/13 k/8 l/7 m/5 n/15 o/2 p/10

**Exercise 3. Feeling pain** (intermediate)

Match it up.

Match the expressions from the yellow column with the most accurate description from the grey column.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yellow: | Grey: |
| a. stabbing pain | 1. affects your body |
| b. dull pain | 2. mostly affects children and teenagers |
| c. debilitating pain | 3. from a body part that is no longer there |
| d. shooting pain | 4. like somebody is beating a drum |
| e. throbbing pain | 5. when giving birth to a baby |
| f. chronic pain | 6. affects your mind |
| g. phantom pain | 7. sudden and moving through your body |
| h. growing pains | 8. like being cut with a knife |
| i. searing pain | 9. extremely intense |
| j. labour pain | 10. lasts for a very long time |
| k. mental pain | 11. mild and continuous |
| l. physical pain | 12. negatively affects your activities |

Answers: a/8 b/11 c/12 d/7 e/4 f/10 g/3 h/2 i/9 j/5 k/6 l/1

**Exercise 4. How are you feeling?** (intermediate level)

Right or wrong

Are these answers correct? If a statement is incorrect, what’s the right answer?

1.

Question: Susan is on the mend after her operation.

Answer: Susan is feeling better every day. (true/false)

Answer: true

2.

Ron is in a very critical condition at the moment.

Ron is criticising everybody at the moment. He is really grumpy. (true/false)

Answer: false. *Critical* in this context means a really serious condition that might result in death.

3.

Ben is as fit as a fiddle.

Ben is not really fit. (true/false)

Answer: false. *Fit as a fiddle* means really fit.

4.

George has passed on.

George is no longer alive. (true/false)

Answer: true

5.

Mary’s condition is deteriorating.

Mary’s condition is unknown. (true/false)

Answer: false. *Deteriorating* means getting worse.

6.

Rick has a hangover.

Rick drank too much alcohol. (true/false)

Answer: true

7.

Richard has kicked the bucket.

Richard is annoyed with the bucket. (true/false)

Answer: false. *To kick the bucket* is a slang expression for dying.

8.

Nikki is feeling woozy.

Nikki might faint. (true/false)

Answer: true

10.

Alice is feeling really queasy.

Alice has an upset stomach and might vomit. (true/false)

Answer: true

11.

Mary is feeling snappy today.

Mary is feeling fine and energetic. (true/false)

Answer: true

**Exercise 5. General medical vocabulary** (upper-intermediate/advanced level)

Spot the odd one out.

Circle the odd word out and explain why you chose this option. Keep an open mind and use different kinds of logic.

1)

1. headache
2. heartache
3. sore throat
4. stomach ache

Answer c. It is the only expression with *sore.*

2)

1. louse
2. fly
3. flea
4. tapeworm

Answer b. A fly is not a parasite.

3)

1. flu
2. measles
3. migraine
4. tuberculosis

Answer c. Migraine is not contagious.

4)

1. capsules
2. lozenges
3. tablets
4. lesions

Answer d. Lesions are injuries to tissue. The rest are types of pills.

5)

1. crutches
2. arm sling
3. wheelchair
4. leg brace

Answer b. An arm sling does not facilitate movement.

6)

1. vein
2. bronchi
3. aorta
4. artery

Answer b. Bronchi do not form part of the circulatory system.

7)

1. laxatives
2. tranquilizers
3. sinusitis
4. painkillers

Answer c. Sinusitis is an illness affecting the spaces surrounding the nasal cavity. The rest are types of medication.

8)

1. autopsy
2. surgery
3. biopsy
4. laparoscopy

Answer a. An autopsy is performed on a deceased person, the other three on living organisms.

9)

1. arthritis
2. amnesia
3. anaemia
4. asthma

Answer b. This condition affects the mind, not the body.

10)

1. canines
2. molars
3. incisors
4. tendons

Answer d. Tendons are tissue connecting muscles to the bone. The rest are types of teeth.

*Created by Paulina van Kuijk, Pearson Benelux 2019*