

UNIT
48

Illness and medicine

A What are your symptoms?



rash



bruise



lump



a black eye

I have a cold / a cough / a sore throat / a temperature / a stomachache / a headache / chest pains / an earache / a pain in my side / a rash on my chest / a bruise on my leg / a black eye / a lump on my arm / indigestion / diarrhea / insomnia / hives / sunburn.

I feel sick to my stomach / nauseous / dizzy / breathless / shivery / weak / stuffed up.

I am depressed / constipated / tense / hyper [colloquial] / tired all the time. I've lost my appetite / voice. I can't sleep, my nose itches, and my leg hurts.

B Some medical tests and measures

(take your) temperature (take your) pulse (take your) blood pressure
 blood test(s) X-ray mammogram Pap test urine analysis
 MRI scan

C Doctors who specialize in particular fields are called specialists.

allergist	gastroenterologist	ophthalmologist	psychiatrist
cardiologist	gynecologist	osteopath	surgeon
chiropractor	internist	podiatrist	urologist
dermatologist	obstetrician	proctologist	

The doctor you see regularly, who treats you for all health matters, is usually called a **general practitioner (GP)** or a **family doctor**.

D What's the diagnosis?

You have the flu / pneumonia / bronchitis / rheumatism / arthritis / hepatitis / an ulcer / hypertension / acne / a virus / an infection / a bug / something that's going around.

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

You're pregnant / HIV positive / a hypochondriac.

He died of lung cancer / a heart attack / a brain hemorrhage / a stroke / AIDS.

E What does the doctor prescribe?

- Take one pill/capsule/tablet three times a day after meals.
- Take a teaspoonful every morning on an empty stomach.
- Rub a little on before going to bed at night.
- You'll have to have your leg put in a cast.
- Get plenty of bed rest.

Exercises

48.1 Match the diseases with their symptoms.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. hepatitis | swollen, painful joints or muscles, extreme stiffness |
| 2. pneumonia | burning pain in abdomen, pain or nausea after eating |
| 3. rheumatism | headache, aching muscles, fever, cough, sneezing |
| 4. an ulcer | dry cough, high fever, chest pain, rapid breathing |
| 5. the flu | fever, weakened condition, yellow color of skin |

48.2 What does a doctor or nurse use the following things for?

Example: stethoscope for listening to a patient's chest

1. thermometer 2. hypodermic needle 3. tongue depressor 4. scalpel

48.3 Which type of specialist might each of these people see for treatment?

- someone with a skin rash that won't go away
- someone who might have a heart condition
- someone who suffers from chronic depression
- someone who sneezes constantly in spring or summer
- a woman who thinks she might be pregnant
- someone who suffers from frequent back pain
- someone who has a painful ingrown toenail
- someone who has blurry vision

48.4 Complete the table.

<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Verb</i>
.....	breathless
.....	weak
.....	shivery
.....	dislocated
ache
treatment	treatable
.....	swollen

48.5 What medical problems might you have or might you get if . . .

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. you eat too fast? | 6. you eat food you're allergic to? |
| 2. you smoke a lot? | 7. you run unusually fast for a bus? |
| 3. you play soccer or football? | 8. a mosquito bites you? |
| 4. you go skiing? | 9. you eat food that has gone bad? |
| 5. you stay out in the sun too long? | 10. you think you're sick all the time? |

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