

English – Medical Vocabulary

Hospital Vocabulary:

- patient a person who has a health problem and visits or stays in hospital
- doctor a medical specialist who treats patients
- surgeon a medical specialist who performs operations (see list below)
- ward a room in a hospital with beds
- nurse a person who cares for patients in the wards and assists doctors
- midwife a nurse who manages a patient during pregnancy, delivery, and post-partum
- ICU (*Intensive Care Unit*) a special area in a hospital for emergency cases

Medical Specialists:

- Anaesthesiologist administers anaesthesia and monitors a patient during surgery
- Cardiologist treats heart diseases
- Dermatologist treats skin diseases
- ENT Specialist treats problems related to the ear, nose and throat (*Otolaryngologist*)
- Gynaecologist treats diseases of the female reproductive system
- Obstetrician treats women during pregnancy and childbirth
- Neurologist treats diseases of the nervous system
- Ophthalmologist treats eye defects, injuries, and diseases
- Orthopedist treats the musculoskeletal system
- Pediatrician treats infants (0-1), toddlers (2-4), children (5-12), teenagers (13-19)
- Geriatrician treats old people (60+)
- Oncologist treats cancer patients
- Plastic Surgeon does reconstructive surgery or cosmetic surgery

Diagnostic Procedures:

- X-ray Electromagnetic waves which create images of internal structures
- Biopsy A procedure that removes tissue from the body for examination
- CT scan (*Computed Tomography*) Specialised equipment to take internal images
- Mammography X-ray of the breast (called a Mammogram)
- MRI scan (*Magnetic Resonance Imaging*) radio waves to examine internal structures
- PET scan (*Positron Emission Tomography*) radioactive substances to see internal structures and functions
- Ultrasound High-frequency sound waves to examine internal structures

Phrases:

- to have a pain in / be in pain / have a ____ache
- to see a doctor / specialist
- to make / schedule an appointment with
- to take medicine (for)
- to have a test / an exam
- to have an X-ray, a CT scan, an ultrasound, etc.
- to be diagnosed with (a disease or medical problem)
- to have an operation / surgery
- to be admitted to hospital
- to be discharged from hospital
- to receive palliative care
- to suffer from (a disease or medical problem)
- a doctor operates on patients

Some common health problems

- to have a headache
- to have a fever / high temperature
- to be dizzy
- to have conjunctivitis
- to have a cold
- to have flu (influenza)
- to have a blocked nose
- to have a runny nose
- to sneeze
- to cough
- to have Covid
- to have a mouth ulcer
- to have a toothache
- to have a cavity (you need a “filling” from the dentist)
- to have a sore throat
- to have a stiff neck
- to have a frozen shoulder
- to have asthma
- to have high / low blood pressure
- to have a stomachache
- to vomit / to throw up
- to be nauseous
- to have a rash
- to have diarrhea
- to be constipated
- to have cramp in
- to have a bruise / hematoma
- to twist an ankle
- to have a broken bone / fracture
- to have a dislocation / a dislocated
- to have a swollen ankle
- to have a blister

Suggested video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs_yKJFRJjk (16 mins)

The difference between “ache”, “pain” and “hurt”:

<https://www.espressoenglish.net/difference-between-ache-pain-and-hurt/>

Exercise. Complete the following conversations with appropriate verbs:

A: I think I need to _____ a doctor.

B: Why?

A: I _____ an acute pain in my stomach.

B: Then you should _____ an appointment with the doctor today. Do you want to _____ any medicine in the meantime?

A: No. I'll call the doctor first.

Later:

A: The doctor said that I should _____ an X-ray and ultrasound of my abdominal region. He also said that if I am _____ from appendicitis, then I will have to _____ an operation.

B: Would you need to _____ to hospital?

A: Probably, but only for one or two days.

The next day:

A: The diagnosis was indeed appendicitis, so I need to _____ an operation today!

B: Today? It must be very serious!

A: Yes, it is. I have acute appendicitis! I will _____ to hospital in the morning. I will _____ some more tests to confirm the diagnosis, and if it is confirmed, then the doctor will _____ soon after.

B: And when will you _____ from hospital?

A: The next day.

B: Excellent. I hope it goes well.

A: Thanks! Me, too!