

B. Use the target vocabulary from the box to complete this story. The words in parentheses can help you.

access to	declined	occurred	priority
accompanied	labored	practitioners	resided

Ignaz Semmelweis received his medical degree in Vienna in 1844. He took a job as head of a hospital department where women went to give birth to their babies. After giving birth, the new mothers in one of two large rooms while they recovered. In one of the rooms, many new mothers died of childbed fever, an infection inside their bodies that often childbirth many years ago.

In the second room, few women died. Semmelweis tried to understand why more deaths in the first room. Some people blamed bad air, but Semmelweis noticed that the first room was very dirty. The second room was very clean. He reasoned that something in the dirt was causing the infection. Semmelweis for weeks to improve the first room. Cleanliness became a

Doctors wearing bloody clothes could not have the patients. Nurse and doctors had to wash their hands with a strong chemical before examining patients. Soon, the death rate in the first room.

The word *decline* usually refers to something becoming weaker, slower, or not as good.

Grandfather's health is **declining**. (verb)

His doctor noticed a **decline** in his weight. (noun)

Note: The verb *decline* is also used to reject or refuse something; for example, *decline an invitation*, or *decline to answer questions*.

C. Which of these things usually decline as a person grows older? Put a check (✓) next to them. Discuss why you checked these items with a partner.

..... eyesight income amount of sleep needed
..... doctor visits TV viewing time spent with family
..... intelligence appetite sense of humor
..... energy level interests patience