



Getting Sick

Conversation > Intermediate 5



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

catch a cold	To become ill with a cold.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: I don't usually catch a cold.</i>

embarrassed	Feeling uncomfortable and worrying about what people think about you because of a mistake you have made or something you have done.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: She felt embarrassed when she dropped her papers.</i>

childhood	A period of your life when you were a child.
[noun]	<i>Ex: This teddy bear reminds me of my childhood.</i>

memory	Something remembered from the past.
[noun]	<i>Ex: One of my earliest memories is of sitting on his knee.</i>

bet	Used to express certainty; to risk something for a reward.
[verb]	<i>Ex: I bet this place is really spooky late at night.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Peter: Laura, how are you today? You look quite ill.

Laura: Well, I am doing fine, but I might have caught a cold.

Peter: Your nose is a little red. You should go to bed earlier today.

Laura: I'm a bit embarrassed. You know, when I was a child, my nose became red every time I caught a cold.

Peter: Oh, that's normal. Why are you embarrassed, Laura?

Laura: I recall my childhood. My classmates laughed at me back then.



Peter: Oh come on, we are all grown up now. It's only a memory, right?

Laura: My immune system wasn't so good back then, I used to get sick every year when the first snow fell.

Peter: Don't stress about it, Laura!

Laura: Anyway, you're right. It's only a memory. Besides, I'm so glad that Christmas is coming.

Peter: Me, too. I bet it will be fun! What are you doing for Christmas this year?

Laura: I'll probably spend it with my best friends. Perhaps we'll go skiing.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

bet
embarrassed
childhood
memories
catch a cold

1. My mom told me that I was really shy in my _____.
2. Get dressed! I don't want you to _____!
3. Some people say that _____ last forever!
4. He looked at me! I was really _____.
5. You can _____ on that!



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: Your friend Jake is embarrassed because he has a red nose brought on by having a cold, tell your friend not to worry about having a red nose. The teacher can be Jake.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. How can you tell you've got a cold?
2. What do you do to recover from a cold?
3. What do you usually do when your family member catches a cold?
4. What is your most important childhood memory? Why?
5. Have you ever felt embarrassed before? Please share your experience.