Pain

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1 A fracture is *least serious / painful / less serious* than a break.

2 My rash is *more itchy / red / itchier* today than yesterday.

3 Do kidney stones hurt *more / most / least* than childbirth?

4 You look *much best / better / good* today?

5 A migraine is *the most / least / more severe* headache you can have.

6 Operations are *most successful / successful / more successful* these days than before.

7 *Less / Least / Most* illnesses are curable, if treated early.

8 This medication will make you feel *less painful / pain / dull* in your arm.

Revisión:

Comparative structures: things or people that are the same

First, we can use 'as ... as' with a normal adjective (not a comparative) to say two things are the same:

• John is as tall as Luke (= they are the same height).

• The red shirt is as expensive as the blue shirt (= they are the same price).

We can use 'not as ... as' to say that two things are not the same:

• Lucy is not as tall as Helena (= Helena is taller than Lucy).

• Paris is not as big as London (= London is bigger than Paris).

Comparative structures: one thing or person is more than another thing or person

We can say that something is more than another thing by using a comparative adjective with 'than'.

• France is bigger than Scotland.

• Luke is taller than Lucy.

• Your book is more interesting than my book.

We can make the comparison stronger by using 'far' or 'much' or 'a lot' before the adjective. We can

make it less strong by using 'a little' or 'a bit'.

• Canada is far bigger than Scotland.

• Your book is much more interesting than my book.

• Amanda is a lot younger than Julie.

• This exercise is a little more difficult than that exercise.

We can say that one thing or person is less than another thing by using 'less ... than':

• Scotland is less big than France.

• Lucy is less tall than Luke.

• My book is less interesting than your book.

Reading and vocabulary

Pain is important because it tells us that we are injured or ill. However, we don’t all feel pain in the same way. Researchers are trying to learn more about this fact. Their experiments show that children are more sensitive to pain than adults, and that men can tolerate more pain than women. Pain is also difficult to measure and describe. This is a problem because it is an important symptom and medics (medical staff) need information from patients about it. It is therefore common practice to give patients lists of words and ask them to say which words best describe three things: the type of pain they are suffering, its intensity (how bad it is ) and its frequency (how often they feel it). With some patients, such as children, words don’t work very well to describe intensity, so medics use smiley faces or sometimes colours. For example, blues mean a mild pain and reds mean severe pain. Some medics prefer a range of numbers; 0 is no pain and 10 is unbearable pain. Pain does not always show where an injury is. Internal organs, for example, do not have many painreceiving nerve endings, so internal injuries often cause pain in a different part of the body. This is called ‘referred pain’. One example of referred pain is when someone suffering a heart attack feels pain in their left shoulder, arm or hand.

A: Comprehension

Use the information in the text to complete the sentences with a, b or c.

1 Researchers are trying to find out why .

a people experience pain differently.

b people feel pain.

c pain is important to people.

2 Experiments show that .

a pain is worse for men than women.

b men can take more pain than women.

c children feel less pain than adults.

3 Nurses need to measure a patient’s pain because .

a pain is a problem.

b pain is a symptom.

c patients can’t describe it.

4 Medics ask patients for a number to describe .

a the kind of pain they have.

b how bad the pain is.

c how often they’re in pain.

5 To describe pain, medics ask children to .

a point to a smiley face.

b think of some numbers.

c say how it feels.

6 You experience referred pain .

a only in your internal organs.

b long after an injury.

c in a different place from an injury.

B: Vocabulary

Write ‘F’ next to the sentences which are about frequency of pain.

Write ‘T’ next to the sentences which describe types of pain (T).

1 He says his toe is throbbing.

2 It’s wearing off now and it’s just an occasional ache.

3 The shooting pains are getting worse.

4 He complains of frequent headaches.

5 She has a stabbing pain in her side.

6 She was in constant pain, but now it’s gone.