



Everyday English for ESL

Lesson 2 — At the Doctor's

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Animated English
Animate Your English

TRANSCRIPTS

DIALOGUE

DOCTOR: Good morning, Mrs¹ Jones. What seems to be the problem?

PATIENT: Well doctor, I've got a sore² throat and a bad cough³. I've also got a headache⁴.

DOCTOR: How long have you had these symptoms⁵?

PATIENT: About four days now, and I'm feeling really tired too.

DOCTOR: It sounds like⁶ you've got the flu⁷. Take two aspirin⁸ every four hours. You should⁹ also get lots of rest and drink plenty of fluids. And if you don't feel better in a couple¹⁰ of days, give me a call.

PATIENT: Thank you doctor.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

If you are feeling ill or have a medical problem, you can make an appointment to see the doctor¹¹.

In Britain, the place where doctors see their patients is called a surgery¹². In America, it's a doctor's office.

When you arrive for your appointment, the secretary or receptionist will probably ask you to wait in the waiting room until the doctor is ready to see you.

When you finally get to see the doctor, he will usually begin by asking you to describe your symptoms. He may then give you an examination, or take your blood pressure, for example.

If the doctor knows what's wrong with you, he will give you some advice¹³ and perhaps prescribe some medicine. You will have to take the prescription¹⁴ to the chemist's¹⁵ to get the medicine¹⁶.

Hopefully, you will get well soon!¹⁷

QUESTIONS

- How often do you go to the doctor's?
- When and why did you last go to see the doctor?
- How are you feeling at the moment?
- What's the health service like in your country?
- Would you like to be a doctor?

LANGUAGE NOTES

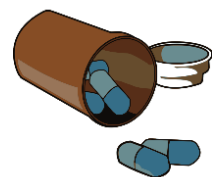
1. **Mrs** is pronounced “misses”, and is used to address or refer to a married woman.
2. If a part of your body is **sore**, it hurts or is painful: *Her elbow was sore after playing tennis.*
3. **Cough** rhymes with ‘off’.
4. **Headache** (head-ake) is one of the six ‘aches’ in English along with backache, stomachache, toothache, earache, and heartache! For other parts of the body, we use the verb ‘to ache’: *My legs are aching* (not “I’ve got legache”).
5. Note that we use the present perfect tense after “How long ...” for an action that continues in the present. In some languages (French, for example), the present tense would be used.
6. **It sounds like** means “From what you’ve told me, it seems that ...”
7. **Flu** [rhymes with ‘who’] is short for **influenza**, but most people just say flu (or the flu). It is an infectious disease caused by a virus. The most common symptoms include: a high fever, runny nose, sore throat, muscle pains, headache, coughing, and feeling tired.
8. **Aspirin** [‘æspərin] can be countable or uncountable, and the plural can be aspirin or aspirins.
 - *Aspirin is a common painkiller.*
 - *I took a couple of aspirin (or aspirins) for my headache.*
9. We use **should** give advice: *You should eat more fruit.* The negative form is **shouldn’t**: *You shouldn’t smoke so much.*
10. Strictly speaking, **a couple** is two, but the word is often used to mean “a few”. *I’ll see you in a couple of days.*
11. In America, family doctors are often called **physicians**. In Britain, they are usually called **GPs** (short for General Practitioner).
12. **Surgery** is also the word for the activity of operating on people. A **surgeon** is a doctor who practises surgery.
13. **Advice** is uncountable and never used in the plural form:
 - *He gave me some useful advice.*
 - *Let me give you a piece of advice.*
14. A **prescription** is a doctor’s written instructions for the preparing and taking of a medicine.
15. The apostrophe in **doctor’s** and **chemist’s** is to show that you are going to his/her surgery/office/shop:
 - *I went to the doctor’s this morning (not ‘~~went to the doctor~~’, though you could say ‘went to see the doctor’).*
16. **Medicine** can be countable or uncountable.
 - *My bathroom cabinet is full of medicines (i.e., different kinds of medicine).*
 - *The doctor gave me some medicine for my cold.*

In America, the word **medication** is commonly used instead of ‘medicine’.
17. **Get well soon** is a fixed expression. You can buy a ‘Get Well Soon’ card for a sick friend or relative.



WORD LIST

advice [U].....	an opinion that someone gives you about the best thing to do
appointment.....	an arrangement to see someone at a particular time and place
aspirin [C/U].....	a drug, usually in the form of a pill, that you take to cure minor pains
blood pressure.....	the pressure at which blood flows from your heart around your body. Blood pressure that is very high or very low can be dangerous to your health.
chemist's.....	a shop that sells medicine, cosmetics, and household items. The usual American word is drugstore , and the word pharmacy is used both in the UK and America.
cough.....	an illness which causes you to make a loud noise from your throat
couple.....	two things; a small number of things: <i>I'll see you in a couple of weeks.</i>
describe.....	to give details about something: <i>Can you describe how you feel?</i>
examination.....	an occasion when a doctor looks at your body to see if it's healthy. Similar words are physical (AmE) and check-up : <i>The doctor gave me a complete examination.</i>
flu.....	a very common infectious disease that makes you feel hot or cold, weak and tired: <i>He's in bed with the flu.</i>
fluids.....	liquids such as water or fruit juice: <i>Make sure you drink plenty of fluids.</i>
headache.....	a pain in your head: <i>I've got a terrible headache</i>
ill.....	suffering from a medical problem. The usual American word is sick .
medicine [C/U].....	a substance you take to treat or cure an illness: <i>Take your medicine!</i>
patient (n).....	someone who is receiving medical treatment
plenty.....	a lot of something: <i>You should eat plenty of fruit.</i>
prescribe.....	if a doctor prescribes a drug or treatment, they say you should have it.
prescription.....	a piece of paper the doctor gives you that says what sort of medicine you need: <i>The doctor gave me a prescription for cough medicine.</i>
receptionist.....	someone whose job it is to greet visitors, answer the phone, etc.
rest [C/U].....	time that you spend relaxing or sleeping, if you are ill, for example: <i>I need a rest/some rest after all that hard work.</i>
secretary.....	someone who works in an office and makes appointments, answers the phone, etc.
sore (adj).....	if a part of your body is sore, it hurts or aches: <i>I've got a sore arm.</i>
surgery.....	In Britain, a surgery is place where a doctor sees patients. In America, the usual term is 'doctor's office'.
symptom.....	a sign that someone has a medical problem: <i>How long have you had these symptoms?</i>
throat.....	the area at the back of your mouth and inside your neck
tired.....	if you are tired, you need to rest or sleep, often after working hard
waiting room.....	a room where patients wait to see the doctor or dentist.
wrong.....	if something is wrong with you, you have a medical problem: <i>I'm sure there's something wrong with my eyes.</i>



LANGUAGE EXERCISES

A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE PICTURES

examination headache sore throat cough symptoms tired surgery prescription patient doctor receptionist chemist's waiting room appointment medicine fluids

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



EVERYDAY ENGLISH LESSON 2 — AT THE DOCTOR'S

B. TRUE OR FALSE?

1. In the United States, a doctor's place of work is called a surgery.
2. The place where you wait to see the doctor is called a waiter room.
3. The doctor will usually examine you after asking about your symptoms.
4. To take your blood pressure, the doctor has to remove some blood from your body using a needle and syringe.
5. Doctors don't usually give medicine directly to their patients.

C. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

If you are feeling ill or (1) *have/having* a medical problem, you can (2) *make/do* an appointment to see the doctor. In Britain, the place where doctors see their patients is (3) *calling/called* a surgery. In America, it's a doctor's office.

When you arrive for your (4) *appointment/meeting*, the secretary or receptionist will probably (5) *ask/say* you to wait in the waiting room until the doctor is ready to see you.

When you finally get to see the doctor, he (6) *does/will* usually begin by asking you to describe your (7) *symptom/symptoms*. He may then give you an (8) *exam/examination*, and take your blood pressure, for example.

If the doctor knows what's (9) *wrong/matter* with you, he will give you some (10) *advice/advices* and perhaps prescribe some medicine. You will have to take the (11) *order/prescription* to the chemist's to get the medicine. (12) *Hopefully/Luckily*, you will get well soon!

Web Version



ANSWER KEY

A. MATCH THE WORDS AND PICTURES

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. surgery | 9. sore throat |
| 2. receptionist | 10. symptoms |
| 3. chemist's | 11. prescription |
| 4. medicine | 12. tired |
| 5. headache | 13. fluids |
| 6. waiting room | 14. patient |
| 7. appointment | 15. examination |
| 8. cough | 16. doctor |

B. TRUE OR FALSE?

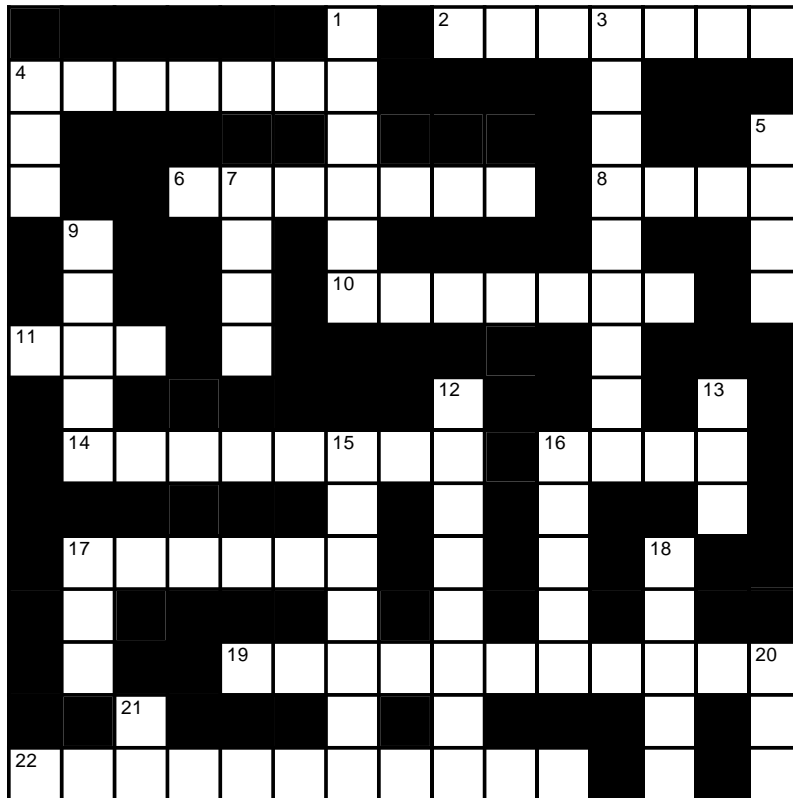
1. FALSE — It's called a doctor's office.
2. FALSE — It's called a waiting room.
3. TRUE
4. FALSE — He uses a special instrument called a blood pressure cuff.
5. TRUE — They usually give them a prescription to take to the chemist's.

C. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

1. have
2. make
3. called
4. appointment
5. ask
6. will
7. symptoms
8. examination
9. wrong
10. advice
11. prescription
12. Hopefully



CROSSWORD



Web Version



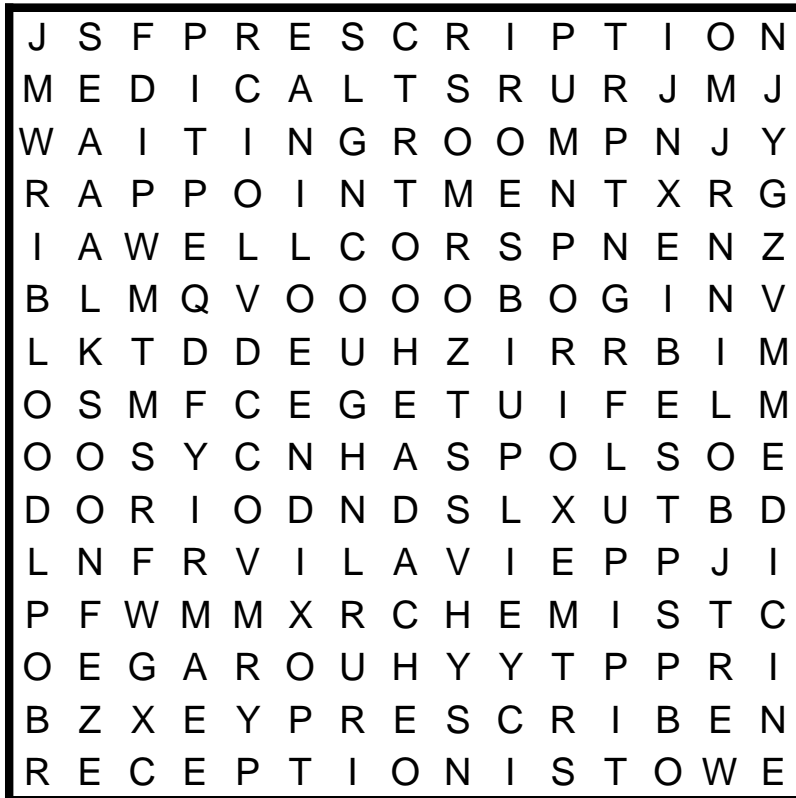
Across

- 2 A sign of illness (7)
- 4 Relating to medicine (7)
- 6 A drug for headaches, etc. (7)
- 8 Painful, hurting (4)
- 10 British doctors see patients in their ____ (7)
- 11 You can ____ drugs at the pharmacy (3)
- 14 A pain in the head (8)
- 16 I'm not feeling very ____ (4)
- 17 American doctors see patients in their ____ (6)
- 19 Where you wait to see the doctor (7,4)
- 22 To see a doctor, you must make an ____ (11)

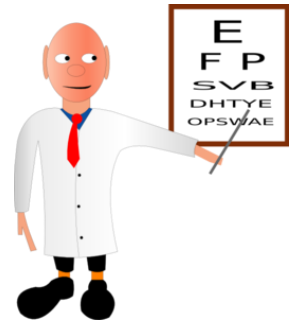
Down

- 1 Liquids you drink (6)
- 3 Only a doctor can ____ certain drugs (9)
- 4 How are you feeling, ____ Jones? (3)
- 5 I ____ a bit tired (4)
- 7 Get Well ____ (4)
- 9 A cold symptom (5)
- 12 It makes you better (8)
- 13 Common infectious illness (3)
- 15 He or she fills the prescription (7)
- 16 What's ____ with you? (5)
- 17 Take ____ your shirt, please (3)
- 18 The doctor took my ____ pressure (5)
- 20 It ____ be the flu (3)
- 21 UK doctor (2)

WORD SEARCH



Web Version



Appointment

Aspirin

Blood

Chemist

Cough

Doctor

Examination

Flu

Headache

Medical

Medicine

Office

Prescribe

Prescription

Receptionist

Soon

Sore

Surgery

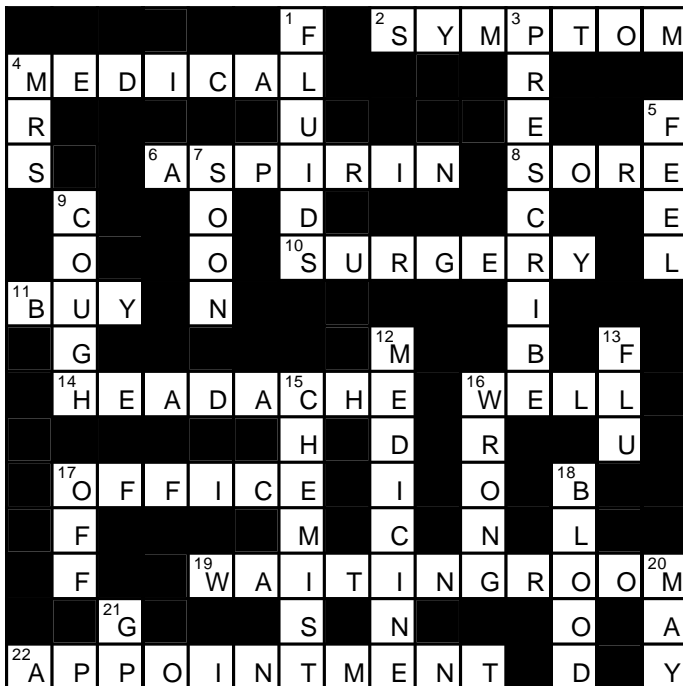
Symptom

Waiting room

Well

Wrong

CROSSWORD — SOLUTION



WORD SEARCH — SOLUTION

