

# AED (Defibrillator)

Question	Answer
<b>What is an AED?</b>	An Automated External Defibrillator that analyses the heart and gives a shock only if needed to help restart a normal rhythm.
<b>When should you use an AED?</b>	As soon as someone is unresponsive and not breathing normally—call 999, start CPR, and use an AED as soon as it's available.
<b>What number do you call in the UK?</b>	Call 999 (use speakerphone). The call handler can tell you if there's an AED nearby and guide you.
<b>Do you need training to use an AED?</b>	No. Anyone can use one. It gives clear verbal and/or visual instructions.
<b>Will an AED shock by mistake?</b>	No. It only shocks if it detects a rhythm that needs it.
<b>Where do AED pads go on an adult?</b>	On the bare chest: one pad high on the right of the chest, one on the left side below the armpit (follow the pictures on the pads).
<b>How do you place pads for a child (1–8 years or &lt;25 kg)?</b>	Use child (paediatric) mode/pads if available. If pads might touch, place one on the centre of the chest and the other on the back (front to back).
<b>Can you use an AED on a baby (&lt;1 year)?</b>	Follow local guidance: if a defibrillator with a baby/child setting and pads is available, use as shown; otherwise, prioritise high-quality CPR and follow 999 guidance.
<b>What if you're alone and there's no AED in sight?</b>	Don't leave the person. Call 999 on speaker, start CPR. Send someone else to fetch an AED if possible.
<b>How fast should chest compressions be?</b>	About 2 per second ( $\approx$ 120 per minute). Push hard and in the centre of the chest, allowing full recoil.
<b>How deep should compressions be?</b>	Adults: 5–6 cm with two hands. Children: 4–5 cm with one hand if suitable. Infants: about one-third of chest depth with two fingers.
<b>When should you stop CPR?</b>	If the person starts breathing normally, a healthcare professional takes over, or the AED tells you to stop.
<b>What should you do as soon as an AED arrives?</b>	Turn it on, expose the chest, attach the pads as shown, stand clear when it says 'analysing/shock', then resume CPR immediately when prompted.
<b>How do you find your nearest AED in the UK?</b>	Call 999. The operator can direct you to a nearby registered public access defibrillator.

