

# English for Doctors

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# **ENGLISH FOR DOCTORS**

**Authentic Consulting – Room Activities  
for  
Doctors, Dentists, Students and Nurses**

with accompanying recorded material

Mária Gyórfy



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## Introduction

For most doctors whose first language is not English communication with colleagues at international conferences or when working abroad does not pose a great problem, as the medical language used is fairly universal. However, when faced with English-speaking patients in the consulting room different vocabulary and language is required. This book has been written bearing this problem of direct communication in mind. It is aimed at those wishing to work in English-speaking countries, e.g. doctors, medical students, assistants and nurses, who have to communicate in English.

The author has had many years of experience teaching medical English to doctors and undergraduates. She appreciates the vital need for medical professionals to communicate accurately with patients at their own level. She has worked to fulfil this need by collecting authentic materials in consulting rooms in the United Kingdom and in the United States. This book is a revised version of English for Doctors, published in 1995, which is already used by students at the Medical University of Pécs, Hungary.

The book is accompanied by CD-s and cassettes; complete tapescripts of which are found at the back of the book along with the exercises, answer key and pronunciation transcript for the medical words.

The book is divided into 13 units based on the main medical specialities. Each unit contains dialogues on patients' complaints, history-taking, examination, treatment and advice. Exercises consist of a pre-listening activity designed to model existing knowledge and vocabulary, a listening section involving both comprehension and new colloquial vocabulary, as well as practice of useful phrases and a section on the doctor's role where new language skills can be consolidated.

The book is a valuable resource for both individual and group study. Knowledge of medicine is not essential for teachers using this book as their own language expertise combined with their students' professional knowledge has been found to be a valuable learning combination.

The purpose of this book is to provide a means for doctors, nurses and medical students to learn the colloquial English used by both British and American patients and to provide opportunities for review, repetition and practice which will be indispensable in their professional lives.

## How to use the book?



**Pre-listening activity** Do this before listening to the tape and check your answers after listening.



**Listening** Listen to the recording as many times as you like before attempting the exercises and listen again to check your answers.

**Doctor's role** Formulate your questions and explanations, basing your vocabulary on that used on the recording. Remember to keep your language as simple as possible and avoid medical terminology wherever possible.

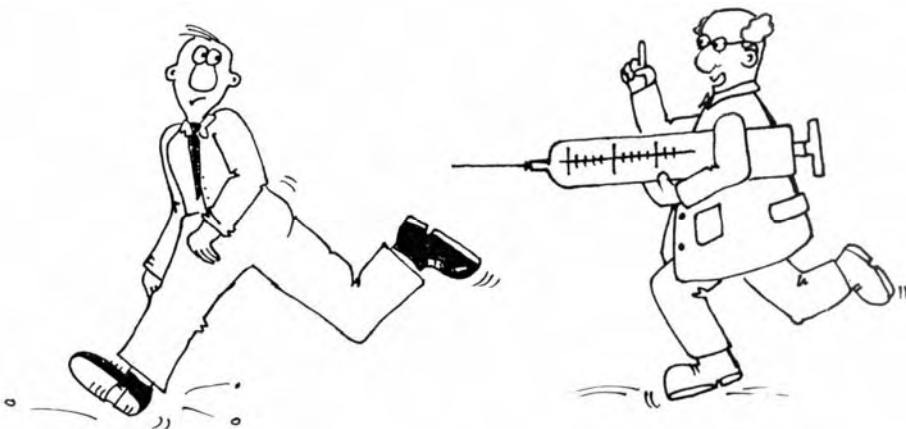
## Unit 1

# INTERNAL MEDICINE

## (HISTORY-TAKING IN GENERAL)

### Contents

- 1 PAST MEDICAL HISTORY
- 2 FAMILY HISTORY
- 3 SOCIAL HISTORY
- 4 PRESENT COMPLAINTS
- 5 PAIN
- 6 HEADACHE
- 7 VERTIGO
- 8 BODY TEMPERATURE AND SWEAT
- 9 NAUSEA AND VOMITING
- 10 DYSPNOEA
- 11 COUGH
- 12 HEART SYMPTOMS
- 13 BODY WEIGHT AND DIET
- 14 BOWEL MOVEMENTS
- 15 BLOOD
- 16 MEDICAL EXAMINATION
- 17 ISOTOPE SCANNING



**1/1 PAST MEDICAL HISTORY**

- 1 ✎ This is a pre-listening activity to prepare you for the dialogue you will hear next. Circle the questions according to whether you would hear them concerning a patient's past medical history during the first visit to the hospital specialist or not.

- Have you ever been in hospital?
- Did you have any childhood diseases?
- Do you ever see double?
- Are your parents still alive?
- Have you ever had an operation?
- Are you currently taking any medicine?
- Do you have any problems with your teeth?
- What kind of treatment did you receive?



- 2 🎧 Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.

- 3 Read the questions below, then listen to both dialogues again and tick the correct answer.

- What does the patient tell the doctor about his childhood diseases?
  - He never had any of the childhood diseases the doctor listed.
  - He had rubella.
  - He had chickenpox and measles.
- Has the patient ever been in hospital?
  - Yes, once, when he had his tonsils out.
  - No, he has never had to stay in hospital.
  - Yes, once. He had his appendix removed.
- How old was he when he developed diabetes?
  - 40
  - 14
  - 44

**4 Listen to both dialogues again, then find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue.**

- a) German measles
- b) Have you ever been in hospital?
- c) I've been having insulin injections.
- d) Are you up-to-date with all your immunisations?

**5 Here are some useful phrases a doctor needs when inquiring about a patient's past medical history. Pair up the words below that you would expect to find in the same context.**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| a) chickenpox          | A hospitalisation      |
| b) appendicitis        | B major health problem |
| c) insulin shots       | C childhood disease    |
| d) high blood pressure | D treatment            |

**6 Complete the questions using the words or phrases in the box.**

symptoms	major health problem	in hospital
up-to-date	childhood diseases	

- a) Have you ever had any .....like measles or chicken pox?
- b) Have you ever been .....for more than a week?
- c) Do you have a .....such as diabetes or high blood pressure?
- d) Are you .....with your immunisations?
- e) What were the first .....of your overactive thyroid?

**7 Read the following phrases which tell you what information to obtain from your patient. Formulate questions and write them out below.**

- a) childhood diseases .....
- b) major health problems .....
- c) admission to hospital .....
- d) surgery .....
- e) treatment .....
- f) immunisation .....

**1/2 FAMILY HISTORY**

**1** ✂ This is a pre-listening activity. Read the following questions and choose the one from each pair which you consider more polite.

- a) A Is there anyone in your family who is crazy?  
B Is there anyone in your family who suffers from mental illness?
- b) A At what age did your father die?  
B How old was your dad when he popped off?
- c) A Are there any medical problems with your kids?  
B Is there anything wrong with your children's health?
- d) A And your aunt with diabetes, is she still so fat?  
B And your aunt who has diabetes, does she still have a weight problem?

**2** 🎧 Read through the comprehension questions below. Now listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.



**3** On the basis of the dialogue indicate whether the following statements are true or false.


- a) There are no illnesses in the woman's family.
- b) Her father died of a heart attack.
- c) Her father suffered from a long illness.
- d) Her children both have diabetes.

**4** Listen to both dialogues and find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue.

- a) He died.
- b) Did he suffer for a long time with his heart condition?
- c) to have insulin injections
- d) tablets



**5 Match up those phrases which have the same meaning.**

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) as far as you know               | A to be very ill with something       |
| b) to be on a diet                  | B injections for people with diabetes |
| c) insulin injections               | C in your opinion                     |
| d) illnesses that run in the family | D to eat carefully                    |
| e) to suffer from a disease         | E medical problems among relatives    |

**6  You will hear several questions a doctor would ask a patient. After listening to the questions, choose the patient's response.**


- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1                                      | 3                                  |
| a) Yes, three times to Greece.         | a) He was 55 years old.            |
| b) Yes, I'm married with two children. | b) He visited the hospital.        |
| c) No, we have an apartment.           | c) He died of old age.             |
| 2                                      | 4                                  |
| a) Yes, diabetes and heart problems.   | a) She is 60 years old.            |
| b) Yes, chickenpox and measles.        | b) Her husband died last year.     |
| c) Yes, pneumonia and a bad cough.     | c) She has trouble with her heart. |

**1/3 SOCIAL HISTORY**

**1   The following questions are necessary to take a patient's social history. You will hear some patients' responses. Which pair of answers could be given to each of the questions? Number the questions in the order you hear the responses.**

- Are you employed?
- Is it an office job or are you on your feet all day?
- How much do you smoke a day?
- Do you ever drink any alcohol?
- What are your living conditions like?



**2  Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.**

**3 Indicate whether the following statements are true or false.**


- a) The patient had a white-collar job.
- b) The patient realises that smoking is harmful.
- c) The patient started drinking and smoking at the same age.
- d) He likes to drink whisky and beer, but prefers not to drink wine.
- e) The patient and his family rent a small house.

**4 After listening to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue:**

- a) I've just been made redundant.
- b) I was desk-bound.
- c) I gave up smoking.
- d) What sort of house do you live in?
- e) We live in a small flat.

**5 Read the four sets of questions below, and choose the odd-one-out from each set which does not mean the same as the others.**

- a) A Are you employed?      c) A Have you ever been drunk?  
    B Do you have a job?      B What is your alcohol consumption?  
    C Is your job stressful?    C How much alcohol do you drink a day?
- b) A Have you given up tobacco?   d) A Do you have a big mortgage?  
    B Have you stopped smoking?    B Is your rent expensive?  
    C How much do you smoke?      C Does your landlord charge a lot?



**6  You will hear some statements made by patients. Choose the questions the doctor must have asked to elicit the patients' responses. It is a good idea to read the questions before you listen to the patient.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>A How long have you been unemployed?</p> <p>B Do you have any children?</p> <p>C Are you working right now?</p> | <p>3</p> <p>A Do you smoke a pipe or cigarettes?</p> <p>B How long have you been smoking?</p> <p>C Have you ever tried to stop smoking?</p> |
|---|---|




- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>2</p> <p>A Where do you work?</p> <p>B Is your job quite stressful?</p> <p>C Are your working conditions safe?</p> | <p>4</p> <p>A Do you only drink at night or do you start in the morning?</p> <p>B Do you ever feel guilty about your use of alcohol?</p> <p>C Have you ever tried cutting down on your drinking?</p> |
|---|--|

### 1/4 PRESENT COMPLAINTS

- 1   You will see eight questions. Five of them are about a patient's present complaints and three would be asked during other visits. Find the three odd-ones-out, then listen to the recording and repeat the questions. Remember that stress and intonation are important.


- a) What's the problem today?
- b) Was your mother also allergic to cats?
- c) Can you tell me what your symptoms are?
- d) Have you ever had these complaints before?
- e) Are you married or single?
- f) What seems to bring this condition on?
- g) When did you start feeling poorly / to feel ill?
- h) Does anyone else in your family have the same problem at the moment?



- 2  Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.
- 3 Decide whether the following statements are true or false.
- a) The patient was short of breath for the first time a year and a half ago.
  - b) He has had the same complaints on and off since he was a child.
  - c) He knows the cause of his illness and wants some tablets for it.
  - d) His condition improves whenever he goes to see his sister in London.
  - e) The doctor thinks that something might be wrong with the patient's respiratory and circulatory systems.

**4 After listening to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue:**

- a) I've been feeling so poorly recently.
- b) You haven't experienced this symptom before?



**5  The following questions are useful when asking a patient about his present condition. Match the questions that have the same meaning. When you have finished, listen to the recording and repeat the questions.**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| a) What can I do for you today? | A Can you describe the changes that have occurred? |
| b) What do you mean by that?    | B What do you think causes your condition?         |
| c) What are your symptoms?      | C Did your condition change without any warning?   |
| d) Did it start suddenly?       | D Can you describe that in more detail?            |
| e) What brings it on?           | E How can I help you, Mr. Jones?                   |

**6 Here are several questions the doctor asked her patient. Unfortunately, the questions got mixed up. Rearrange them in a logical order.**

- a) What do you mean by feeling poorly?
- b) What do you think brought it on this time?
- c) What is the problem today?
- d) Let me listen to your heart and lungs.
- e) When did you first notice the symptoms?

**1/5 PAIN**

**1   It is vital for doctors to understand exactly what kind of pain the patient experiences. There are a large number of words describing pain in English and this unit tries to introduce most of them. Overleaf are questions which are asked concerning pain in particular areas. Study the different words and phrases used and indicate the one or ones in each section which is inaccurate.**

**HEAD**

**Do you have a/an ... headache?**

- splitting
- throbbing
- band-like
- dull
- aching
- burning
- sharp
- stabbing
- colicky
- blinding
- stress-induced
- tension



**Do you have a migraine?**

**TOOTH**

**Do you have (a) ... toothache? / Is your toothache ...?**

- sharp
- dull
- throbbing
- stabbing
- pulsating



**Is your tooth ...?**

- sensitive
- aching
- tender
- cramping

**LOWER BACK**

**Is the pain in your back ...?**

- slow in onset
- long in duration
- dull
- diffused
- aching
- steady/constant
- severe
- progressing poorly
- localised
- crushing
- deep
- mild



**CHEST**

**Is the pain in your chest ...?**

**Do you have a ... pain in your chest?**

- burning
- constricting
- bursting
- choking
- squeezing
- gripping
- pressing
- crushing
- sticking
- jabbing
- sharp
- sensitive
- knife-like
- fleeting
- throbbing
- dull
- severe
- stabbing



**Is the pain in your chest ...?**

- like a weight on it
- like a band across it

**ABDOMEN**

**Do you feel any / a ... pain in your abdomen?**

- sharp
- dull
- aching
- gnawing
- burning
- cramping
- colicky
- diffused
- localised
- recurrent
- constant
- flank
- intermittent
- stabbing



**Do you get / feel bloated?**

**Do you have any heartburn / indigestion?**

**KIDNEYS AND URINARY TRACT**

**Do you have (a) ... pain/ache/ discomfort?**

- sharp
- dull
- severe
- burning
- stinging
- nagging
- niggling
- splitting
- flank
- back
- abdominal
- steady
- low grade



**Do you have slight discomfort?**

**EXTREMITIES**

**Do you have a/an ... pain in your shoulder/hand/foot?**

- sharp
- tingling
- shooting
- dull
- burning
- severe
- pulsating
- throbbing

**Do you have ...**

**in your hands/arms?**

- weakness
- numbness
- tension

**Do you have cramp?**

**Do you have an ache in your hand?**



**2 Match the kinds of pain with the parts of the body that they are most usually associated with.**

**A**

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| a) aching    | A abdomen          |
| b) sharp     | B heart            |
| c) throbbing | C appendix         |
| d) splitting | D chest or abdomen |
| e) stabbing  | E head             |
| f) squeezing | F tooth            |
| g) colicky   | G back             |
| h) cramping  |                    |




**B**

**Match the kinds of pain with their synonyms.**

acute	chronic	circumscribed	constant	constricting	cramp
diffused	dull	excruciating	fixed	intermittent	piercing
pins and needles	pounding	severe	sore	stinging	vague discomfort

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a) continuous                            | j) tender, painful                             |
| b) very painful                          | k) sharp, penetrating                          |
| c) not sharp                             | l) extremely painful                           |
| d) not moving                            | m) limited to one area                         |
| e) burning                               | n) throbbing, beating, pulsating               |
| f) coming and going                      | o) widespread, not localised                   |
| g) tingling, pricking sensation          | p) short, sharp, severe, lancing, cutting      |
| h) painful, spasmodic muscle contraction | q) uncomfortable sensation lacking painfulness |
| i) squeezing, tight                      |  |


**3**  **Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.**

**4 Determine whether the following statements are true or false.**

- The patient feels a localised pain in the chest.
- The pain is usually spasmodic and sometimes piercing.
- The pain doesn't come in attacks, it's constant once it starts.
- When she coughs or takes a deep breath, the pain subsides.

**5 After listening to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue:**

a) I find going upstairs difficult.

**6  Below are groups of questions. Select the correct heading for each group. When you have finished listen to the recording and repeat the questions.**

Duration	Factors that alter the problem	Location	Onset
	Character	Radiation	Related symptoms

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>a) .....<br/>Can you show me where it hurts?<br/>Can you point with your finger to the spot where it hurts?<br/>Where does it hurt?<br/>Where is your pain?<br/>Where is it sore?</p> <p>b) .....<br/>Could you describe what the pain feels like?<br/>Can you describe the pain?<br/>What's the pain like?<br/>What kind of pain do you feel?<br/>What kind of pain is it?<br/>Is it getting more or less severe?<br/>How bad is the pain?<br/>Does it wake you up at night?<br/>Does it interfere with your everyday life?<br/>Does it affect your work?<br/>Is the pain better or worse now?</p> <p>c) .....<br/>How long have you had this pain?<br/>How long has it been bothering you?<br/>How long does it last?<br/>Do you have it all the time or does it seem to come and go?</p> | <p>Is it constant or intermittent?<br/>Did it happen suddenly or gradually?<br/>How often do you get it?</p> <p>d) .....<br/>When does it come, when does it go?<br/>When did this pain start?<br/>What were you doing at the time this pain started?<br/>When was the last time you were without pain?<br/>When was the first time you noticed that something was wrong?<br/>Have you had anything like this before?</p> <p>e) .....<br/>Does anything relieve the symptoms or make them worse?<br/>What do you do when it happens?<br/>Is there anything that makes it better or worse?<br/>Is there any position that makes it feel better or worse?<br/>Have you received any drugs for your pain?<br/>How long does it take for the medicine to take effect?</p> |
|--|---|

After you take the medicine, how long is it before you feel better?  
What makes the pain go away / disappear?

- f) .....  
Does the pain move to another part of your body?  
In which direction does the pain go?  
Does the pain seem to move anywhere else?  
Has the pain spread?

Has the pain affected any other part of your body?

- g) .....  
What brings it on?  
What are your symptoms?  
Is it related to eating / coughing / your mood / tiredness / broken skin / body position / movement?  
Do you notice any side-effects?  
Does anything else happen at the same time?

**7 You can see some patients' complaints below. Write out the necessary questions to elicit these responses.**

D: I believe that you are having some pain at the moment.

P: Right here down in my abdomen.

D:

P: It started just a few days before my period.

D:

P: It hurt really badly for about two or three days.

D:

P: I'd say it was a sharp, cramping feeling, unbearable.

D:

P: Yes, to my lower back, and all the way to my knees.

D:


P: Well, it seemed to get a bit better if I took some tablets, but it was still pretty bad.

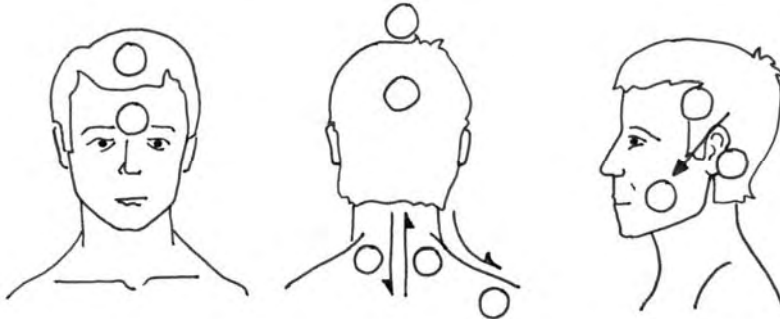
D:


P: Oh, yes, I vomited a lot, I felt weak and bloated.

**1/6 HEADACHE**

See also Headache in Unit 12.

- 1  You will hear questions concerning location and radiation of pain in the head. Indicate the location and radiation of the pain in each question on the outlines below by writing the question number in the appropriate place.



- 2  Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.

- 3 After listening to the dialogues, try to remember how the patient responded to the doctor's questions about various characteristics of her headache. Write in the missing words in the space provided.




- a) LOCATION: It was on the ..... of my head.  
 b) DURATION: It can last between ..... and 4 or 5 hours.  
 c) ACCOMPANYING SYMPTOMS: I felt nauseous and saw .....  
 d) RELIEVING FACTORS: I have to go to a dark room and .....  
 e) MEDICATION: Sometimes, if I take some ....., that seems to help.  
 f) FAMILY HISTORY: ..... used to suffer from migraines.  
 g) CHARACTER OF PAIN: I have this throbbing, sort of ..... headache.
- 4 After listening again to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue.

- a) I feel sick.      b) I actually vomit.      c) Have you found any tablets?  
 d) I suppose.      e) I'm not able to carry on with what I'm doing.



5 Read the following groups of expressions relevant to headaches. From each group, choose the one phrase which does not mean the same as the other two.

- a) A When did the headache start?
- B Is this something new or have you had it in the past?
- C Is there any particular time of the day when you have the headache?
- b) A Can you point out the painful area?
- B Is the pain spreading from one to both sides of your head?
- C Whereabouts in your head is the pain?
- c) A Is there anything in particular that brings the pain on?
- B Are there any periods of time when you don't feel any pain?
- C Is there anything that seems to trigger the headache?
- d) A What do you do to get rid of the headache?
- B Do you take any medicine to treat the headache?
- C Have you ever blacked out?

6  Below are some key pieces of information you need to find out from a patient regarding a headache. Write in the appropriate questions. Then listen to our version on the recording.


- a) location .....
- b) duration .....
- c) character of pain .....
- d) accompanying symptoms .....
- e) relieving factors .....
- f) medication .....
- g) family history .....

**1/7 VERTIGO**

1   Below are several doctor's questions about vertigo. Next to each are three patients' responses to these questions. Read the questions. You will hear a version of one of the patients' statements. Circle the response you think you have heard.

Practise the doctor's questions.



- a) **How would you describe your dizziness?**  
 A spinning, as if the room were going around  
 B leaning, as if somebody were pulling me sideways  
 C just a feeling of unsteadiness
- b) **What does a dizzy spell consist of for you?**  
 A "dizziness in the feet", staggering  
 B just a type of light-headedness  
 C as if everything were spinning around with me
- c) **How long does an episode of dizziness last?**  
 A from several days to weeks  
 B from hours to days  
 C only for a few seconds
- d) **In what body position do you feel dizzy?**  
 A when I roll over in bed  
 B when I turn my head too quickly to look up  
 C when I stand up suddenly
- 2  **Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.**
- 3 **Indicate which of the following statements according to the dialogue are true.**
- a) A He experiences dizziness on changing his body position.  
 B He feels dizzy in a reclining position.
- b) A His dizziness feels like a sensation of lateral pulsion.  
 B His dizziness feels like a rotating sensation.
- c) A His dizziness is accompanied by tinnitus.  
 B His dizziness is accompanied by visual disturbance.
- d) A The patient had been referred by an ENT specialist.  
 B The patient had been referred by an optician.
- 4 **After listening to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue.**
- a) Do you ever suffer from dizziness?  
 b) Have you seen a consultant about this?



**5 Complete the following questions to help a patient describe the symptoms of vertigo.**

- a) Does your dizziness last a long time or is it ..... ?
- b) Does your dizziness subside when you are in a resting position or ..... ?
- c) When you are dizzy, do you experience a sensation of falling in one direction or is it more like ..... ?
- d) Is your attack of dizziness usually so severe that you are confined to bed or ..... ?
- e) Do your dizzy spells happen very suddenly or ..... ?

**6 The following sets of questions are about dizziness. Choose the ones that are appropriate for communicating with a patient. Be careful not to use too much medical jargon.**

- a) A Do you frequently suffer from vertigo?  
B Do you often experience dizzy spells?
- b) A Do you ever feel that the room is spinning around or that you are falling to one side?  
B Do you ever have the sensation of lateral pulsion or rotation?
- c) A Do you feel uncoordinated when you stand?  
B Do you just feel wobbly on your feet?
- d) A When you are dizzy, do you notice any ringing in your ears?  
B Is your dizziness accompanied by tinnitus?

**1/8 BODY TEMPERATURE AND SWEAT**

**1** ✂ **Most of the expressions below relate to fever, body temperature and perspiration. Tick the expressions which you do not think belong to this group.**

- |                     |                      |                           |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| a) wheezing         | b) shivering         | c) high fever             |
| d) under the tongue | e) bloating          | f) swinging temperature   |
| g) heart murmur     | h) soaking wet       | i) excessive perspiration |
| j) extremely high   | k) putting on weight |                           |

**2** 🎧 **Listen to the dialogues. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.**



**3 After listening to the dialogue in this unit, decide whether the following statements are true or false.**

- a) The patient took her temperature orally.
- b) The doctor wants to know if the patient has visited a foreign country recently.
- c) The patient's whole body trembles because of fever.
- d) She has always perspired a lot.
- e) Apart from feeling feverish, she feels well.
- f) She starts to sweat very suddenly.

**4 After listening to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue.**

- a) Have you got a temperature?
- b) Is your temperature high all the time?
- c) I took my temperature under my tongue.
- d) Do you also have shivers?
- e) Have you been abroad?

**5 Complete the following sentences or questions by inserting the appropriate words or phrases from the box.**

in the armpit	trembling	perspire	has gone down	feverish
rattle	orally	extremely high	fever	swings

- a) Do you have a temperature?  
Are you feeling..... ?
- b) Does your temperature go up and down suddenly?  
Are there any ..... in temperature?
- c) Did you take your temperature under your tongue?  
Did you take your temperature .....
- d) Was it an axillary temperature?  
Did you take your temperature .....
- e) I'm afraid your son's temperature is 104 °F.  
I'm sorry, but your son has an.....
- f) I'm glad to say that your fever has fallen.  
You will be pleased to know that your temperature .....
- g) My entire body was shaking.  
My whole body was.....

- h) When you have a fever, do your teeth chatter?  
When you have a high temperature, do your teeth..... ?
- i) Do you sweat a lot?  
Do you ..... a lot?

**6 Complete the dialogue between the patient and the doctor by writing in the doctor's questions.**

D: *What's the problem?*

P: I've been feeling very warm.

D:

P: Yes, I took it last night before going to bed.

D:

P: It was 102 °F.

D:

P: Under my tongue.

D:

P: Yes, it usually goes up at night.

D:


P: Yes, I'm always soaking wet.

D:

## 1/9 NAUSEA AND VOMITING

**1 ✎ Most of the expressions below are relevant to the topic of nausea and vomiting. However, there are three which are not. Tick these three.**

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) difficult to keep anything down | j) belch                 |
| b) spurt out in a stream           | k) projectile            |
| c) spread to the shoulders         | l) burp                  |
| d) looks like ground coffee        | m) varicose veins        |
| e) my mother had migraines         | n) undigested food       |
| f) few spots of red blood          | o) feeling queasy        |
| g) bring up                        | p) little clots of blood |
| h) feel sick                       | q) feel nauseous         |
| i) throw up                        | r) keep retching         |

- 2  Listen to the dialogues. You will hear five of the expressions from the previous exercise. Circle them. Dialogue A is in British English, dialogue B is in American English. Pay close attention to the differences in pronunciation and vocabulary.



- 3 After listening to the dialogue, read the following statements. Based on the dialogue, choose the correct statement from each pair below.

- a) A He feels only nauseous.  
B He vomited as well.
- b) A It started two weeks ago.  
B It started two months ago.
- c) A It's worse after eating.  
B It's not related to meals.
- d) A He brings up something more like bile.  
B He brings up undigested food.
- e) A It seems to be red.  
B It seems to be a yellowish green colour.
- f) A It never looks like coffee grounds.  
B Sometimes it looks like ground coffee.
- g) A He rarely belches.  
B He belches a lot.
- 4 After listening to both dialogues, find the equivalent expression in the American dialogue.
- a) Do you just feel sick?  
b) I vomit.  
c) Do you have a bad taste in your mouth?  
d) I suffer from a lot of wind.

**5 Match the following groups of phrases with the appropriate sentences on the left.**

a) Is your vomiting ... ?

A

mucus undigested food blood
-----------------------------------

b) Do you vomit ... ?

B

a strange odour any particular smell any odour
--

c) Is your nausea caused by ... ?

C

every day early in the morning during the night
---

d) What you bring up, does it have ... ?

D

related to meals spontaneous self-induced
---

e) Does the vomit contain ... ?

E

certain places stress, fear or depression car or motion sickness
--

f) Is it difficult to ... ?

F

keep food down bring anything up keep liquid down
---

**6 Below are some responses from a patient who suffers from nausea and vomiting. Formulate appropriate questions which could elicit these answers.**

D:

P: I keep retching and I have actually vomited.

D:

P: It happens very often.

D:

P: When I eat, it gets better.

D:

P: I bring up food mostly.

D: