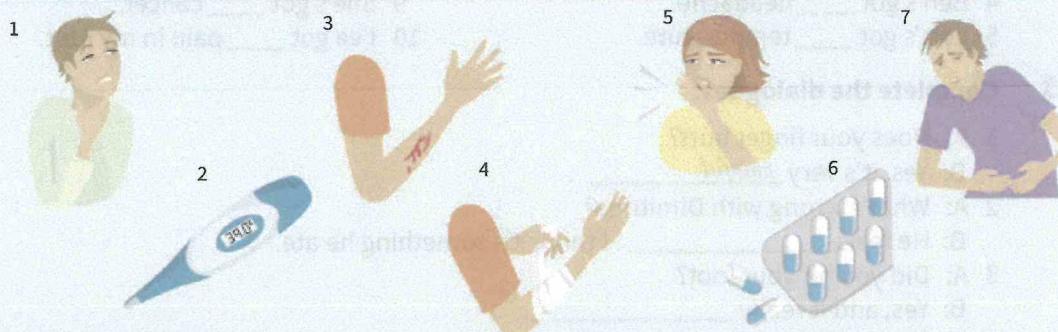


A

Common problems

What's the matter?	What you should do
A: I've got a sore throat ¹ and a temperature . ²	B: That sounds like flu . You should see a doctor.
A: I've cut my arm; it's bleeding . ³	B: Put a bandage ⁴ round it.
A: I've got a terrible cough . ⁵	B: Go to the chemist and get some cough medicine [something you take to treat an illness].
A: I've got a headache .	B: Take some tablets ⁶ for the pain. (also pills)
A: I feel sick . ⁷	B: Go to the bathroom quickly!



B

Describing pain

We can use different words to describe **pain**. An **ache** describes pain that is not always strong, but often continues. It is used with certain parts of the body.

I've got a **headache**. Aria's got **stomach ache**.

My dad **suffers from** [often has the pain of] **backache**.

For other parts of the body we often use **pain**.

I've got a **pain** in my shoulder/foot.

Ache can also be a verb to describe pain that continues for some time.

By the end of the day my feet were **aching**.

For stronger or more sudden pain, we usually use the verb **hurt**.

My throat **hurts** when I speak.

I hit my leg on the table and it really **hurts** / it's very **painful**.

C

Serious illnesses

For **serious** [bad] illnesses, you will probably go into hospital. A person who stays in hospital is called a **patient**. Many patients need an **operation** [when special doctors, called **surgeons**, cut into the body for medical reasons; also called **surgery**].

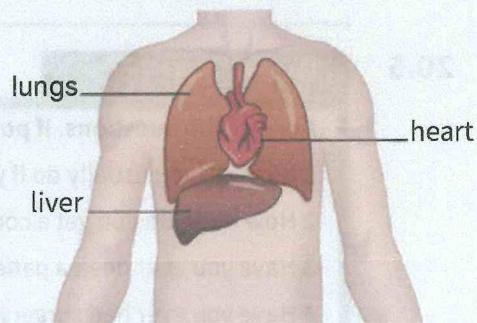
Lung cancer can be caused by smoking.

Heart attacks can happen very suddenly.

Hepatitis is a disease affecting the liver.

Language help

Disease is used to talk about more serious medical problems, often affecting certain parts of the body, e.g. heart disease. **Illness** is used to talk about serious and minor medical problems and those affecting the mind, e.g. mental illness. Disease is not used about a period of illness, e.g. He died after a long illness. (NOT He died after a long disease.)



Exercises

20.1 Look at the underlined letters in each pair of words. Is the pronunciation the same or different? Use the index to help you.

1 ache pain same
2 cold stomach different
3 cough through
4 flu cut

5 liver disease
6 stomach operation
7 chemist ache
8 patient bandage

20.2 Complete the sentences with *a* or nothing (-).

1 She's got - hepatitis.
2 I've got a cough.
3 I'm getting sore throat.
4 Ben's got headache.
5 Luis's got temperature.

6 I've got backache.
7 Zarita's got flu.
8 My uncle had heart attack.
9 She's got cancer.
10 I've got pain in my foot.

20.3 Complete the dialogues.

1 A: Does your finger hurt?
B: Yes, it's very painful
2 A: What's wrong with Dimitrios?
B: He feels I think it's something he ate.
3 A: Did you hit your foot?
B: Yes, and it really
4 A: My hand's bleeding quite badly.
B: Well, put a round it.
5 A: Your finger's
B: I know. I cut it using that knife.
6 A: Does Tanya still from bad headaches?
B: Yes, she gets them all the time.
7 A: What's the matter?
B: My back from sitting at that computer all day.
8 A: I understand Lena has had quite a illness.
B: Yeah. She was in hospital for over a week.

20.4 Find five more pairs of words. Why are they pairs?

lung heart surgeon tablets/pills attack liver
operation cancer hepatitis sore medicine throat

lung and cancer - because you can get lung cancer.

20.5

Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

- 1 What do you usually do if you get a headache?
- 2 How often do you get a cough or a sore throat?
- 3 Have you ever been a patient in hospital? If so, what was it like?
- 4 Have you ever had surgery?
- 5 Are there some medicines you always keep in your home? What are they?