

Ow, that hurts!

LEARNING OUTCOME

learn how to describe symptoms of an illness to a doctor

Everyday life

1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where are the people and what are they doing?

What do you think the problem is?



Everyday vocabulary

2 Look at the words in the box. Put them in two categories: parts of the body and treatment.

ankle • antibiotics • back • chest • cough syrup
ear • elbow • eye • knee • medicine • neck
paracetamol • plaster • shoulder • stomach
throat • wrist

3 Add any other words you know to the two categories in 2.

Dialogue

4 04 Listen to the dialogue. How does the doctor treat Sandra's problem?

Sandra is staying in the UK. Today she has an appointment with a GP, Dr Ross.

Dr Ross: Hello. (1) What seems to be the problem?

Sandra: Hello, Dr Ross. I'm not feeling very well.

Dr Ross: Oh, dear. Can you describe the symptoms?

Sandra: (2)

Dr Ross: Yes, (3) Any nausea?

Sandra: Nausea? Oh, yes. I feel sick, and this morning I felt faint. I thought I was going to pass out. I have a stomach ache, too.

Dr Ross: And your neck, under your ears. How does it feel if I press here?

Sandra: Ow, that hurts! Yes, I have an earache, too.

Dr Ross: (4) Have you taken any medicine today?

Sandra: Yes. I took some paracetamol this morning.

Dr Ross: OK, that's fine. (5) Are you allergic to any antibiotics?

Sandra: No.

Dr Ross: Good. I'm going to prescribe you some penicillin. It's an antibiotic.

(6), and buy the medicine. OK?

Sandra: Yes, thank you, doctor.

Dr Ross: And remember, keep your temperature down with paracetamol, and drink plenty of water.

5 Read and complete the dialogue with the phrases (a-f). Then listen again and check.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| a ... you feel quite hot. | d Come in, please. |
| b Go to a chemist. | e I think it's an infection. |
| c You have a fever. | f I have a headache. |

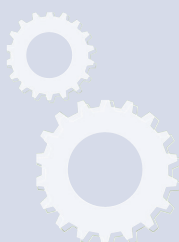
EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: ASKING ABOUT AND DESCRIBING SYMPTOMS OF AN ILLNESS

Look at the expressions from the dialogue.

Who says each one: Sandra or Dr Ross?

Number the sentences 1–9 so that they are in the correct order.

- ☐ I'm going to prescribe you some penicillin.
- ☐ Ow, that hurts!
- ☐ Can you describe the symptoms?
- ☒ 1 What seems to be the problem?
- ☐ Thank you, doctor.
- ☐ And remember to drink plenty of water.
- ☐ I'm not feeling very well.
- ☐ I feel sick, and this morning I felt faint.
- ☐ How does it feel if I press here?



Over to you!

6 Work in pairs. You are in a GP surgery. One of you is the doctor, and the other is a patient. Follow the steps below and role-play a conversation. Then change roles. Use the expressions in the Everyday English Toolkit.

Patient: Look at the parts of the body in exercise 2 and decide what might be wrong with you. Prepare to explain your symptoms clearly to the doctor.

Doctor: Greet the patient and ask them what their problem is. Ask them to describe their symptoms. Once you have all the information you need, suggest how you intend to treat their condition. If they require medicine from a chemist, you will need to write out a prescription.