

At the Doctor in English: Phrases for Health and Advice

Level: A2

Saying what is wrong

I'd like to make an appointment.	Say it when you call the doctor to ask for a time.	"I'd like to make an appointment, please." "Is tomorrow at ten okay?"
I don't feel well.	Say it when you are ill but you don't know why.	"What's the matter?" "I don't feel well."
I have a headache.	Say it when your head hurts.	"I have a headache" and I feel tired."
I have a sore throat.	Say it when your throat hurts.	"I have a sore throat." "Open your mouth, please."
My stomach hurts.	Say it when you have a pain in your stomach.	"My stomach hurts." "Where exactly?"
I have a fever.	Say it when your body is very hot.	"I have a fever." "Let me check."
I've got a cough.	Say it when you cough a lot.	"I've got a cough" at night."

Giving more details

It started two days ago.	Say it to tell when the problem began.	"When did it start?" "It started two days ago."
It hurts when I walk.	Say it to tell when you feel the pain.	"My foot is bad. It hurts when I walk."
I can't sleep.	Say it when you don't sleep well at night.	"I can't sleep, and I feel terrible."
I feel tired all the time.	Say it when you have no energy every day.	"I feel tired all the time, doctor."
I'm allergic to penicillin.	Say it when a medicine or food makes you ill.	"I'm allergic to penicillin." "Thank you. I'll write it down."
I'm taking some medicine.	Say it when you use a medicine now.	"I'm taking some medicine" for my cough."

What the doctor asks

What's the matter?	The doctor asks it at the start of the visit.	"Good morning. What's the matter? " "I have a headache."
Where does it hurt?	The doctor asks it to find the pain.	"Where does it hurt?" "Here, in my back."
When did it start?	The doctor asks it to know the day of the first pain.	"When did it start?" "Last night."
Do you have a fever?	The doctor asks it to know if you are very hot.	"Do you have a fever?" "I don't think so."

Are you allergic to anything?	The doctor asks it before he or she gives you medicine.	"Are you allergic to anything?" "No, nothing."
Open your mouth, please.	The doctor says it to look in your mouth and throat.	"Open your mouth, please. Say ah."
Take a deep breath.	The doctor says it to listen to your chest.	"Take a deep breath. Now breathe out."

Advice and medicine

You should rest.	The doctor gives advice: it is a good idea.	"You should rest for two days."
You must drink a lot of water.	The doctor says it is very important.	"You must drink a lot of water." "Okay, doctor."
You have to stay in bed.	The doctor says there is no other choice.	"You have to stay in bed for three days."
You shouldn't go to work.	The doctor says it is not a good idea.	"You shouldn't go to work tomorrow."
Take this medicine twice a day.	The doctor says how often to take the medicine.	"Take this medicine twice a day, after food."
Come back in a week.	The doctor says it to ask for a second visit.	"Come back in a week if you still feel bad."
Should I take it with food?	Ask it when you don't know how to take a medicine.	"Should I take it with food?" "Yes, you should."

Exercise 1: Match the Phrase and the Situation

Match each phrase with the situation.

1. I have a sore throat. → _____
2. I have a fever. → _____
3. Where does it hurt? → _____
4. I'm allergic to penicillin. → _____
5. You have to stay in bed. → _____
6. Take a deep breath. → _____

A medicine makes you ill. The doctor listens to your chest. The doctor says there is no other choice. The doctor wants to find the pain. Your body is very hot. Your throat hurts.

Exercise 2: What Do You Say?

Choose the best phrase for each situation.

7. Your head hurts. What do you say to the doctor?
a) I have a headache. b) I have a cough. c) My stomach hurts.

8. "When did it start?" "___"
a) It started two days ago. b) It hurts here. c) Take this medicine.
9. "___ stay in bed." (The doctor says it is the only choice.)
a) You have to b) You shouldn't c) You can
10. "You ___ go to work tomorrow." (The doctor says it is a bad idea.)
a) shouldn't b) should c) have to
11. "___" (You call the doctor. You want to see the doctor tomorrow.)
a) I'd like to make an appointment. b) Open your mouth, please. c) Come back in a week.
12. "Are you allergic to anything?" "___" (You are not allergic to anything.)
a) No, nothing. b) No, I don't have. c) Yes, I'm taking.
13. You don't know how to take a medicine. What do you ask?
a) Should I take it with food? b) Do you have a fever? c) Where does it hurt?

Exercise 3: Complete the Dialogue

Type the missing word.

14. "What's the ___?" "I don't feel well."
15. "I have a sore ___." "Open your mouth, please." (t...)
16. "My stomach ___." "Where exactly?" (h...)
17. "You ___ rest and drink a lot of water." (It is a good idea.) (s...)
18. "Take this medicine ___ a day: in the morning and at night." (t...)
19. "Are you ___ to anything?" "No, nothing." (a...)

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Phrase and the Situation

1. I have a sore throat. → Your throat hurts.
2. I have a fever. → Your body is very hot.
3. Where does it hurt? → The doctor wants to find the pain.
4. I'm allergic to penicillin. → A medicine makes you ill.
5. You have to stay in bed. → The doctor says there is no other choice.
6. Take a deep breath. → The doctor listens to your chest.

Exercise 2: What Do You Say?

7. a) I have a headache.
8. a) It started two days ago.
9. a) You have to
10. a) shouldn't
11. a) I'd like to make an appointment.
12. a) No, nothing.
13. a) Should I take it with food?

Exercise 3: Complete the Dialogue

14. matter / problem
15. throat
16. hurts
17. should
18. twice
19. allergic