

Health and Illness Vocabulary in English

Level: A2

How do you feel?

ill	not well: you feel bad in your body	My mother is ill today.
sick	ill (the usual word in American English)	My son is sick and can't go to school.
well	not ill: in good health	I don't feel very well today.
tired	you want to sleep or rest	I'm very tired after the trip.

Pains and illnesses

headache	pain in your head	I have a headache .
stomachache	pain in your stomach	She has a stomachache after lunch.
toothache	pain in your tooth	My brother has a toothache .
sore throat	when your throat hurts, for example when you talk or eat	I have a sore throat and a cough.
cough	a loud noise from your throat when you are ill	I've got a bad cough .
cold	a small illness that gives you a sore throat and a cough	I have a cold , so I'm staying at home.
flu	a bad illness like a cold, but worse	Half of my class has the flu .
fever	a very hot body when you are ill	The child has a fever and a headache.
hurt	to feel pain	My feet hurt .

Doctors, hospitals and medicine

doctor	a person who helps ill people	You should see a doctor .
nurse	a person who works with doctors in a hospital	The nurse is very kind.
dentist	a doctor for your teeth	I go to the dentist twice a year.
hospital	☐☐	My mother works in a hospital .
ambulance	☐☐	Call an ambulance ! Quickly!
appointment	a time to see a doctor	I have an appointment with the doctor at 3 p.m.
medicine	what you take when you are ill to get better	You must take this medicine every day.
tablet	a small medicine that you take with water (more common in British English)	Take one tablet after lunch.
pill	a small medicine that you take with water (more common in American English)	I take a pill every morning.

What should you do?

rest	to stop work and relax	You should rest and drink water.
stay in bed	not to get up	You have to stay in bed today.
see a doctor	to go and talk to a doctor	If it hurts, you should see a doctor .
take medicine	to use medicine when you are ill	I take medicine for my cold.

Exercise 1: Match the Words

Match each word with its picture or meaning.

1. hospital → _____
2. ambulance → _____
3. headache → _____
4. toothache → _____
5. dentist → _____
6. fever → _____
7. appointment → _____

a doctor for your teeth a time to see a doctor a very hot body when you are ill pain in your head
pain in your tooth ☐ ☐

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Word

Choose the correct word for each sentence.

8. My head hurts. I have a ____.
a) headache b) stomachache c) toothache
9. You have a fever. You ____ stay in bed.
a) should b) are c) does
10. You must ____ a doctor if you have a high fever.
a) see b) look c) watch
11. I have a toothache, so I have an appointment with the ____.
a) dentist b) ambulance c) tablet
12. My feet ____ after the long walk.
a) hurt b) hurts c) hurting
13. I'm tired, so I have to ____.
a) rest b) sick c) fever
14. In the USA, people often say ____ for tablet.
a) pill b) cold c) nurse

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

Type the missing word.

15. I have a sore ____ and I can't talk. (t...)
16. You have a fever. You should ____ a doctor.
17. Take one ____ after lunch. It's your medicine.
18. Anna has a fever. She ____ to stay in bed. (have to)
19. Call an ____! He can't walk. (□□)
20. I don't feel _____. I think I have the flu. (w...)
21. The doctor says: "You ____ drink a lot of water." (advice)

Answer key

Exercise 1: Match the Words

1. hospital → □□
2. ambulance → □□
3. headache → pain in your head
4. toothache → pain in your tooth
5. dentist → a doctor for your teeth
6. fever → a very hot body when you are ill
7. appointment → a time to see a doctor

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Word

8. a) headache
9. a) should
10. a) see
11. a) dentist
12. a) hurt
13. a) rest
14. a) pill

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blank

15. throat
16. see / call / visit
17. tablet / pill
18. has
19. ambulance
20. well / good
21. should / must