

AT THE DOCTOR' S—TRANSCRIPT & NOTES

DIALOGUE

Doctor: Good morning, Mrs¹ Jones. What seems to be the problem?

Patient: Well doctor, I've got a sore² throat and a bad cough³. I've also got a headache⁴.

Doctor: How long have you had these symptoms⁵?

Patient: About four days now, and I'm feeling really tired too.

Doctor: It sounds like⁶ you've got the flu⁷. Take two aspirin⁸ every four hours. You should⁹ also get lots of rest and drink plenty of fluids. And if you don't feel better in a couple¹⁰ of days, give me a call.

Patient: Thank you doctor.

LISTENING

If you are feeling ill or have a medical problem, you can make an appointment to see the doctor¹¹.

In Britain, the place where doctors see their patients is called a surgery¹². In America, it's a doctor's office.

When you arrive for your appointment, the secretary or receptionist will probably ask you to wait in the waiting room until the doctor is ready to see you.

When you finally get to see the doctor, he will usually begin by asking you to describe your symptoms. He may then give you an examination, and take your blood pressure, for example.

If the doctor knows what's wrong with you, he will give you some advice¹³ and perhaps prescribe some medicine. You will have to take the prescription¹⁴ to the chemist's¹⁵ to get the medicine¹⁶.

Hopefully, you will get well soon!¹⁷

QUESTIONS

- How often do you go to the doctor's?
- When and why did you last go to see the doctor?
- How are you feeling at the moment?
- What's the health service like in your country?
- Would you like to be a doctor?

LANGUAGE NOTES

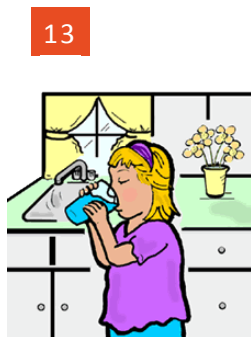
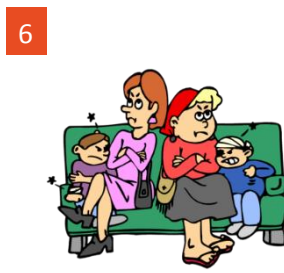
1. **Mrs** is pronounced “misses”, and is used to address or refer to a married woman.
2. If a part of your body is **sore**, it hurts or is painful: *Her elbow was sore after playing tennis.*
3. **Cough** rhymes with ‘off’.
4. **Headache** (head-ake) is one of the six ‘aches’ in English along with backache, stomachache, toothache, earache, and heartache! For other parts of the body, we use the verb ‘to ache’: *My legs are aching* (not “I’ve got legache”).
5. Note the use of the present perfect tense after “How long ...”. In some languages (French, for example), the present tense would be used.
6. **It sounds like** means “From what you’ve told me, it seems that ...”
7. **Flu** [flu:] is short for **influenza**, but most people just say flu (or the flu). It is an infectious disease caused by a virus. The most common symptoms include: a high fever, runny nose, sore throat, muscle pains, headache, coughing, and feeling tired.
8. **Aspirin** [ˈæspəɪn] can be countable or uncountable, and the plural can be aspirin or aspirins.
 - *Aspirin is a common painkiller.*
 - *I took a couple of aspirin (or aspirins) for my headache.*
9. We use **should** give advice: *You should eat more fruit.* The negative form is **shouldn’t**: *You shouldn’t smoke so much.*
10. Strictly speaking, **a couple** is two, but the word is often used to mean “a few”. *I’ll see you in a couple of days.*
11. In America, doctors are often called **physicians**. In Britain, they are often called **GPs** (short for General Practitioner).
12. **Surgery** is also the word for the activity of operating on people. A **surgeon** is a doctor who practises surgery.
13. **Advice** is uncountable and never used in the plural form:
 - *He gave me some useful advice.*
 - *Let me give you a piece of advice.*
14. A **prescription** is a doctor’s written instructions for the preparing and taking of a medicine.
15. The apostrophe in **doctor’s** and **chemist’s** is to show that you are going to his/her surgery/office/shop:
 - *I went to the doctor’s this morning (not ‘~~went to the doctor~~’, though you could say ‘went to see the doctor’).*
16. **Medicine** can be countable or uncountable.
 - *My bathroom cabinet is full of medicines (i.e., different kinds of medicine).*
 - *The doctor gave me some medicine for my cold.*
 In America, the word **medication** is commonly used instead of ‘medicine’.
17. **Get well soon** is a fixed expression. You can buy a ‘Get Well Soon’ card for a sick friend or relative.



AT THE DOCTOR'S —WORKSHEET

A. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THE PICTURES

examination headache sore throat cough symptoms tired surgery prescription
patient doctor receptionist chemist's waiting room appointment medicine fluids



B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

If you are feeling ill or (1) *have/having* a medical problem, you can (2) *make/do* an appointment to see the doctor. In Britain, the place where doctors see their patients is (3) *calling/called* a surgery. In America, it's a doctor's office.

When you arrive for your (4) *appointment/meeting*, the secretary or receptionist will probably (5) *ask/say* you to wait in the waiting room until the doctor is ready to see you.

When you finally get to see the doctor, he (6) *is/will* usually begin by asking you to describe your (7) *symptom/symptoms*. He may then give you an (8) *exam/examination*, and take your blood pressure, for example.

If the doctor knows what's (9) *wrong/matter* with you, he will give you some (10) *advice/advices* and perhaps prescribe (11) *some/the* medicine. You will have to take the prescription to the chemist's to get the medicine.

(12) *Hopefully/Luckily*, you will get well soon!

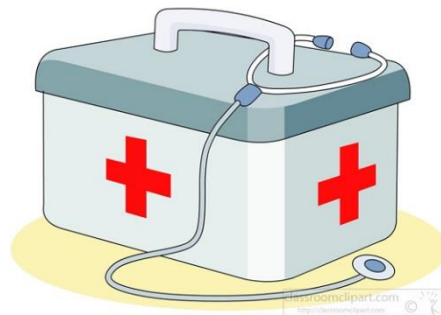
ANSWER KEY

A. MATCH THE WORDS AND PICTURES

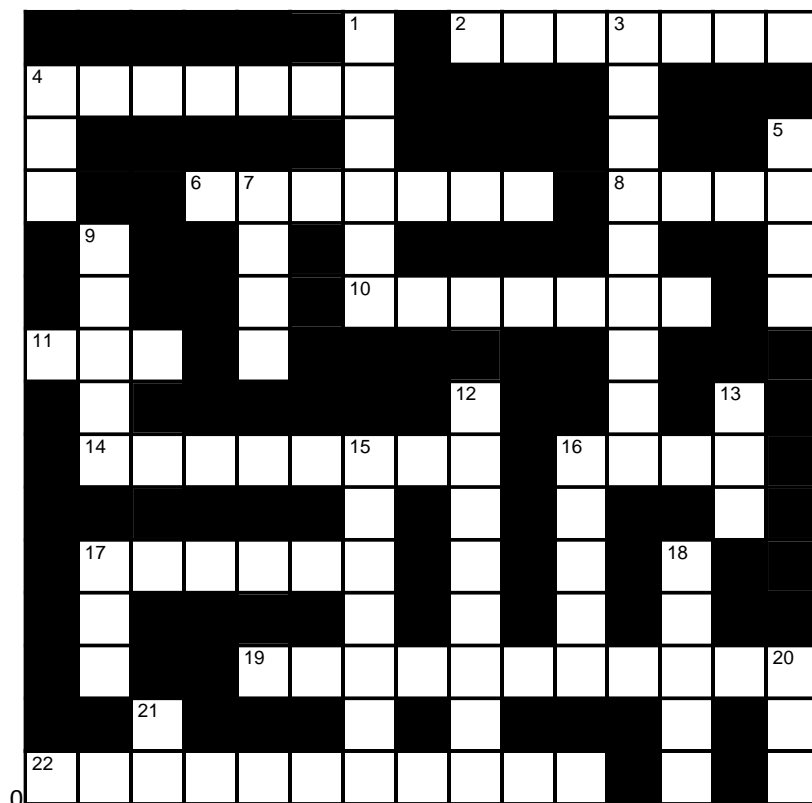
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|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. surgery | 9. sore throat |
| 2. receptionist | 10. symptoms |
| 3. chemist's | 11. prescription |
| 4. medicine | 12. tired |
| 5. headache | 13. fluids |
| 6. waiting room | 14. patient |
| 7. appointment | 15. examination |
| 8. cough | 16. doctor |

B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

1. have
2. make
3. called
4. appointment
5. ask
6. will
7. symptoms
8. examination
9. wrong
10. advice
11. some
12. Hopefully



AT THE DOCTOR'S — CROSSWORD



Web Version

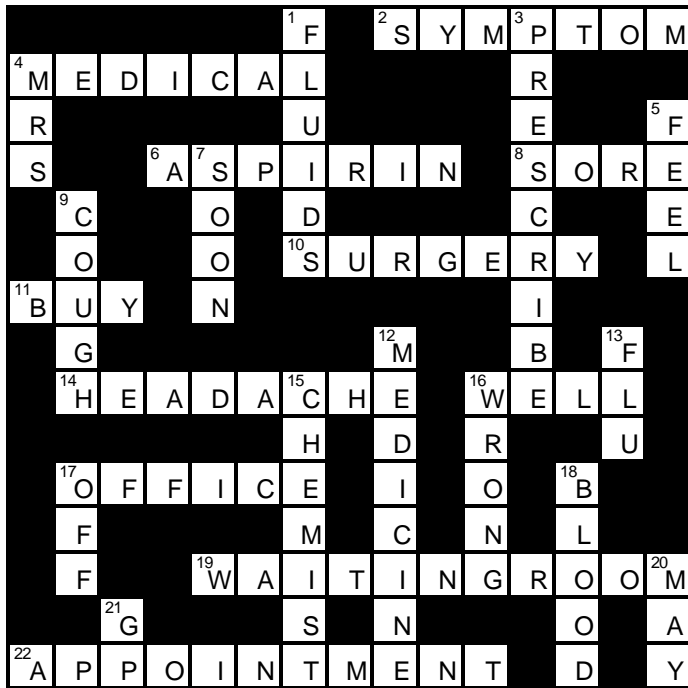
Across

- 2 A sign of illness (7)
- 4 Relating to medicine (7)
- 6 A drug for headaches, etc. (7)
- 8 Painful, hurting (4)
- 10 British doctors see patients in their ____ (7)
- 11 You can ____ drugs at the pharmacy (3)
- 14 A pain in the head (8)
- 16 I'm not feeling very ____ (4)
- 17 American doctors see patients in their ____ (6)
- 19 Where you wait to see the doctor (7,4)
- 22 To see a doctor, you must make an ____ (11)

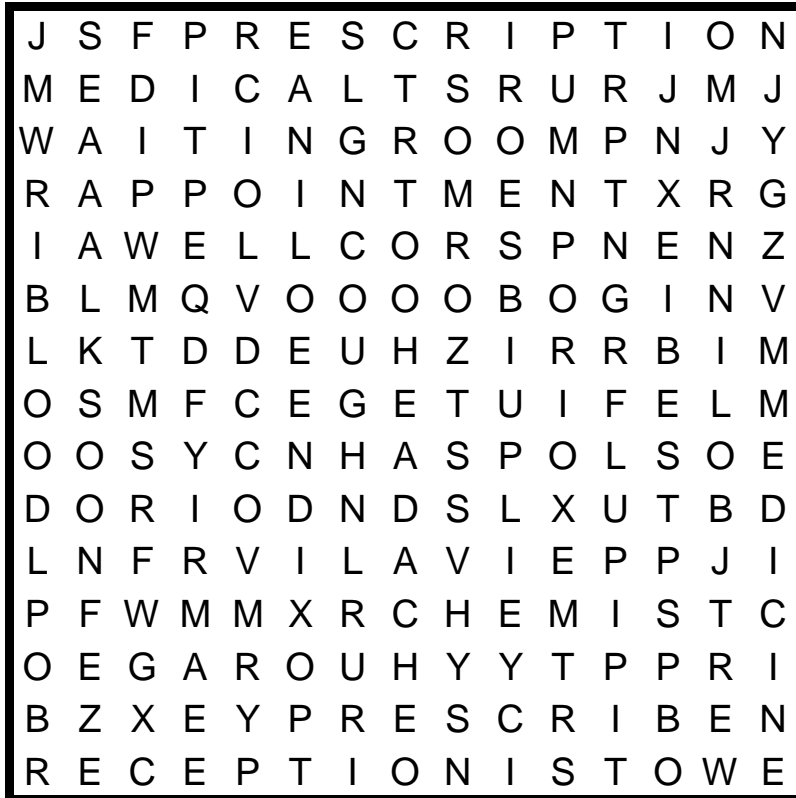
Down

- 1 Liquids you drink (6)
- 3 Only a doctor can ____ certain drugs (9)
- 4 How are you feeling, ____ Jones? (3)
- 5 I ____ a bit tired (4)
- 7 Get Well ____ (4)
- 9 A cold symptom (5)
- 12 It makes you better (8)
- 13 Common infectious illness (3)
- 15 He or she fills the prescription (7)
- 16 What's ____ with you? (5)
- 17 Take ____ your shirt, please (3)
- 18 The doctor took my ____ pressure (5)
- 20 It ____ be the flu (3)
- 21 UK doctor (2)

SOLUTION



AT THE DOCTOR'S — WORD SEARCH



Web Version

Appointment
 Aspirin
 Blood
 Chemist
 Cough
 Doctor
 Examination
 Flu
 Headache
 Medical
 Medicine

Office
 Prescribe
 Prescription
 Receptionist
 Soon
 Sore
 Surgery
 Symptom
 Waiting room
 Well
 Wrong

SOLUTION

