

Advice for Aches and Pains

Activity Type

Vocabulary Game:
matching

Speaking Activity: role-
play, communicative
practice (pair work)

Focus

Illnesses and ailments

Treatments

Giving health advice

Aim

To develop students' ability to recognise common health problems, suggest appropriate treatments, and conduct doctor-patient conversations using medical vocabulary.

Preparation

Make one copy of the picture cards, health problem cards and treatment cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated. Keep the three sets separate.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this giving health advice game and role-play, students match pictures to health problems and health problems to treatments, then role-play giving health advice as a doctor.

Procedure

Before you begin, pre-teach or review the vocabulary on the cards with the class.

Next, divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair a set of picture cards and a set of (white) health problem cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the sets of cards separately and spread them out face-down on the table in two sets.

Students then take turns turning over one picture card and one health problem card.

If the picture and health problem match, the student keeps the cards and has another turn.

If the cards don't match, the student turns them back over, keeping them in the same place.

The student with the most pairs of cards at the end of the game wins.

Next, students repeat the game, but this time they use the (white) health problem cards and the (grey) treatment cards, matching the health issues with the treatments.

After that, write some phrases for giving advice on the board, e.g. *You should... / You could/should try... + -ing...*

Pairs then shuffle the picture cards and place them face-down in a pile.

Finally, students role-play short doctor-patient interactions.

Students take turns picking up a picture card and acting as a patient, saying the health problem shown in the picture, e.g. 'I've got a cold.'

The other student acts as a doctor and gives health advice to the patient, e.g. 'You should rest and drink lots of fluids.'

Matching cards are shown in order on the uncut cards.

Advice for Aches and Pains



have a cold / the flu

have a fever / temperature

have a sore throat

have an earache

have a toothache

feel sick

have a stomach ache

have a rash

have diarrhoea

have a cough

have an allergy

have conjunctivitis



rest and drink lots
of fluids

rest and drink lots
of fluids

suck on throat lozenges

apply a hot or cold compress
to your ear

rinse your mouth with warm
saltwater

get lots of fresh air

drink lots of water

apply cream

drink lots of water

take some cough medicine

take antihistamines

take antibiotics