

Activity Type

Speaking Game:
matching, role-play,
communicative practice
(group work)

Focus

Stating basic medical
problems

Suggesting remedies

Aim

To practice suggesting
remedies to medical
issues.

Preparation

Make one copy of the
cards for each group
of three and cut as
indicated. Keep the
health problem cards and
remedy cards separate.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this doctor and patient role-play game, students race to suggest remedies to health issues.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three.

Give each group a set of problem cards and remedy cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the health problem cards and place them face-down in a pile on the desk, and spread the remedy cards out face-up, so they are at equal distance from all three group members.

Next, write the following language on the board and review the questions and sentences with the class:

What seems to be the problem?
Thank you, doctor.
Can I have a second opinion?
Thanks anyway.

Students then take turns taking on the role of a patient and picking up a health problem card from the pile.

The other students take on the role of doctors and ask the patient, 'What seems to be the problem?'

The patient then reads out the health problem on the card, and the doctors race to find the correct remedy card and read it to the patient.

If the remedy is correct as shown on the patient's problem card, the patient replies, 'Thank you, doctor.'

The winning doctor then keeps the problem and remedy cards.


If the remedy is incorrect, the patient replies, 'Can I have a second opinion?'

The other doctor then chooses a different remedy card.


If that answer is also incorrect, the patient says, 'Thanks anyway', and places the problem card at the bottom of the pile to be used again later in the game.

The student with the most pairs of cards at the end is the winner.

Health Problem cards

 <p>I have been coughing for two days.</p> <p>Answer: It looks like you have an infection. This cough medicine will help.</p>	<p>I have hay fever. I can't stop sneezing.</p> <p>Answer: I see. Try this allergy medicine.</p>	<p>I have a runny nose. I think it's a cold.</p> <p>Answer: Yes, it's just a cold. Here is some cold medicine.</p>
<p>I bruised my ankle.</p> <p>Answer: Put some ice on it and use this pain medicine. Don't walk on it too much.</p>	<p>I don't want to get the flu.</p> <p>Answer: You should get a flu shot. Also, make sure to wash your hands a lot.</p>	<p>I have a rash. It's very itchy.</p> <p>Answer: This cream will make it less itchy. It will go away soon.</p>
<p>I have a lot of pimples.</p> <p>Answer: Use this cream two times a day. They will go away soon.</p>	<p>I think I have a broken arm.</p> <p>Answer: Yes, it's broken. You will need to wear a cast for four weeks.</p>	<p>I have a stomachache.</p> <p>Answer: This medicine will help your stomach. Also, try eating chicken noodle soup.</p>
<p>I have a bad cut.</p> <p>Answer: I'll clean it out. It doesn't need stitches. I'll just put a bandage on it.</p>	<p>I feel dizzy.</p> <p>Answer: You are dehydrated. Make sure to drink lots of water.</p>	<p>I have a sore throat.</p> <p>Answer: Take this medicine and try not to talk too much for two or three days.</p>

Remedy cards

 <p>Yes, it's broken. You will need to wear a cast for four weeks.</p>	<p>This cream will make it less itchy. It will go away soon.</p>	<p>Yes, it's just a cold. Here is some cold medicine.</p>
<p>Put some ice on it and use this pain medicine. Don't walk on it too much.</p>	<p>You should get a flu shot. Also, make sure to wash your hands a lot.</p>	<p>I see. Try this allergy medicine.</p>
<p>Use this cream two times a day. They will go away soon.</p>	<p>It looks like you have an infection. This cough medicine will help.</p>	<p>This medicine will help your stomach. Also, try eating chicken noodle soup.</p>
<p>I'll clean it out. It doesn't need stitches. I'll just put a bandage on it.</p>	<p>You are dehydrated. Make sure to drink lots of water.</p>	<p>Take this medicine and try not to talk too much for two or three days.</p>