Unit 5: Health

NURSE MIGRATION

Words

Write the letter of each definition with the word it defines. If you don't know the definition, use the context of the reading passage to help you. Look for the words in bold as you read the passage.

PARAGRAPHS 1–2

Words	Definitions
1 ..... shortage	**A** adj., not simple
2 ..... cripple	**B** n., a position or job that needs to be filled
3 ..... complex	**C** n., a situation where there is not enough of something
4 ..... vacancy	**D** v., to cause serious damage; weaken

PARAGRAPHS 3–4

Words	Definitions
5 ..... abroad	**E** adv., in a foreign country
6 ..... standpoint	**F** v., to gradually go lower; become smaller
7 ..... lure	**G** v., to guess based on information
8 ..... primary	**H** v., to attract
9 ..... decline	**I** adj., main; most important
10 ..... estimate	**J** n., point of view

PARAGRAPHS 4–5

Words	Definitions
11 ..... bulk	**K** v., to give medicine or medical treatment
12 ..... rudimentary	**L** n., the largest part
13 ..... epidemic	**M** n., rapid spread of a disease
14 ..... rampant	**N** adj., basic; not well developed
15 ..... administer	**O** adj., spreading out of control

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PARAGRAPHS 6–7

Words	Definitions
16 ..... stem	**P** n., period of ten years
17 ..... supply	**Q** adj., skilled; able to do a job
18 ..... decade	**R** v., to keep
19 ..... qualified	**S** v., to come from; originate
20 ..... retain	**T** n., the total amount available

Reading

Nurse Migration

(1) There are more nurses today than at any time in history, yet a global nursing **shortage** threatens to **cripple** health care systems worldwide. Because the underlying causes of a shortage are **complex** and vary in different regions, a simple, short-term fix will not remedy the situation.

(2) In developing nations—particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America—a major reason for the shortage is nurse migration to developed countries in Europe and North America as well as Australia to help fill **vacancies** there.

(3) Nurse migration is hardly a recent phenomenon. The Philippines have for years trained many more nurses than the country needs, with thousands working **abroad** and sending money to relatives back home (nearing $1 billion annually). From that **standpoint**, migration of nurses from poorer to wealthier countries would appear to benefit all involved. But there is another side to the story. Today, even the Philippines feels the effects of the nursing shortage, with nurses continuing to migrate abroad while positions at home go unfilled.

(4) **Lured** by the higher salaries and better quality of life available in wealthier countries, nurses from developing countries frequently leave behind already overburdened health care systems, where nurses are often the **primary** caregivers because doctors, too, are in short supply. Conditions then deteriorate further as the nurse-to-population ratio **declines**, a number that is **estimated** to be ten times higher in European than in African countries. Some Latin American countries are experiencing such a shortage of nurses that doctors actually outnumber them, leaving the **bulk** of health care up to assistant nurses, who have only **rudimentary** training.

(5) Routine immunizations and prenatal care fall victim to the nursing shortage in developing countries, and in many cases the results can be life threatening. In African countries where the HIV/AIDS

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epidemic is **rampant**, some patients go untreated not because lifesaving drugs are unavailable but because there are not enough nurses to **administer** them.

(6) In developed countries in Europe and North America, the nursing shortage largely **stems** from an aging population, who require more health care services, coupled with a dwindling **supply** of nurses, many of whom are likewise nearing retirement age, with fewer young people preparing to replace them.

(7) A common thread among nurse-importing countries—underinvestment in nursing education dating back two or more **decades**—has prevented them from creating a stable workforce to meet current and future needs. The United Kingdom, for example, still feels the effects of a cutback in nurse training some twenty years ago. In the United States, nursing schools turn down thousands of **qualified** applicants every year because of their own shortages of nursing faculty. Developed countries need to invest in nursing education and focus on **retaining** and rewarding nurses appropriately, both financially and through high-quality working conditions.

(8) Widespread nurse migration helps neither the host country nor the country of origin in the long run, does nothing to remedy the underlying cause of the shortage, and results in millions of people being deprived of the health care they need.

Answer the questions about **Nurse Migration**.

Questions 1–6

Complete the summary using the list of words below.

abroad	complex	qualified
administered	cripple	rudimentary
bulk	lure	shortage

The **1**..... of nurses in developing nations is largely caused by nurses leaving their countries to work **2**..... . It is difficult for poorer nations to retain their nurses because better salaries and living conditions **3**..... many nurses to work in wealthier countries. When nurses migrate to other countries, there are fewer **4**..... health care givers left in their own countries. The lack of trained doctors as well as nurses means that health care is often **5**..... by workers who have only **6**..... skills.

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Questions 7–9

Do the following statements agree with the information in the reading passage?

Write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information.*
FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information.*
NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this in the passage.*

..... **7** A primary reason for the nursing shortage in developed countries is the health care needs of the aging population.

..... **8** There is not a large enough supply of qualified applicants for nursing schools in the United States.

..... **9** In the United Kingdom, a high percentage of nurses have retired during the past two decades.

Word Families

A

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the word family chart. Make nouns plural where necessary. Use the correct form of verbs.

noun	adjective
complexity	complex

1 The ..... of the nursing shortage problem makes it difficult to solve.

2 The reasons for the world-wide nursing shortage are ..... .

noun	verb	adjective
qualification	qualify	qualified

3 A nurse who has the right ..... will have no trouble finding a job.

4 ..... nurses are needed everywhere.

5 At nursing school, a student learns the skills to ..... for a career in nursing.

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adjective	adverb
rampant.	rampantly

6 The ..... spread of the epidemic made it difficult to control.

7 The disease spread ..... throughout the region.

noun	verb	adjective
shortage	shorten	short

8 Lack of proper medical care can ..... a patient's life.

9 Both nurses and doctors are in ..... supply in many places.

10 The nursing ..... is affecting countries around the world.

noun	verb	adjective
vacancy	vacate	vacant

11 A ..... position at a hospital will be filled quickly if the salary and benefits are attractive.

12 When a nurse leaves a job, it is not always easy to fill the ..... .

13 Many nurses ..... their jobs in their native countries in favor of better positions elsewhere.

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Word Families

B

Choose the correct word family member from the list below to complete each blank.

1	shortage	shorten	short
2	complexities	complex	complexes
3	ramp	rampant	rampantly
4	vacancies	vacate	vacant
5	qualifications	qualifies	qualified

Nurses are in **1**..... supply in many parts of the world. There are many reasons for this lack of nurses; the issue is filled with **2**..... . A solution needs to be found soon, because the problem has become **3**..... . When nurses **4**..... their positions at hospitals and health care centers, it is not easy to find other nurses to replace them. The ability to administer health care where it is needed is crippled when there are not enough **5**..... nurses.

Paraphrases

Read the sentence from the reading passage. Then, choose the sentence that has the same meaning.

1 *There are more nurses today than at any time in history, yet a global nursing shortage threatens to cripple health care systems worldwide.* (paragraph 1)

A Many nurses around the world have difficulty finding good jobs.

B The lack of nurses is harming health care systems around the world.

C Nurses need better training to meet the needs of health care systems.

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2 *Some Latin American countries are experiencing such a shortage of nurses that doctors actually outnumber them, leaving the bulk of health care up to assistant nurses, who have only rudimentary training.* (paragraph 4)

A In parts of Latin America, the lack of nurses means that most care is provided by assistants with only basic training.

B Many Latin American nurses leave their countries to get better training elsewhere.

C Some Latin American nurses have difficulty providing care because they don't have assistants.

Word Skill

COMPOUND WORDS

When two or more words join to form a new word, that word is called a compound word. Sometimes, the meaning of the compound word is related to the meanings of the two separate words.

> standpoint = stand + point
> Meaning: the place where you stand, the position from which you see and understand things.

Read the sentences. Write a definition for each underlined word.

1 Work at the health care center came to a standstill because there was not enough money to pay the staff.

standstill: .....

2 The new nurse has been a real standout with excellent reviews from doctors and patients alike.

standout: .....

Listening

Track 13

*Listen to the talk. Complete the sentences below. Write **ONE NUMBER ONLY** for each answer.*

1 In the United States, the bulk of nursing school programs take ..... years.

2 In the United Kingdom, ... percent of nurses have degrees.

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3 There has been a decline of ..... percent or more of people applying to nursing schools in the United States.

4 By 2015, there may be as many as ..... vacancies for nurses in the United States.

Writing (Task 1)

The chart[1] below shows information about wages for health care professionals in four different countries.

Summarize[2] the information by selecting and reporting the main information and making comparisons.

Write at least 150 words.

Average Monthly Salaries for Qualified Health Care Professionals

	Nurses	Doctors
Country A *	$35	$64
Country B *	$350	$700
Country C **	$2,900	$5,500
Country D **	$3,420	$10,200

*Source countries: supply health care professionals to other countries
**Destination countries: receive health care professionals from abroad

Speaking

Talk about the following topics.

What profession do you work in or plan to work in? What were your primary reasons for choosing this profession?

What are your professional goals for the next decade?

What kinds of opportunities does your profession offer for working abroad?

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[1]BrE: table
[2]BrE: summarise

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