53 Health and medicine

A What are your symptoms?

rash

bruise

lump

spots

a black eye

I've got a **cold** / a **cough** / a **sore throat** / a **temperature** [a higher temperature than normal] / a **stomach ache** / **chest pains** / **earache** / a **pain** in my side / a **rash** on my chest / **spots** / a **bruise** on my leg [e.g. after playing football] / a **black eye** [e.g. after being hit in the eye] / a **lump** on my arm / **indigestion** [after eating too fast] / **sickness and diarrhoea** [an upset stomach which makes you vomit and need to go to the toilet frequently] / **sunburn** / **painful joints** [e.g. ankles, knees, wrists, shoulders] / **blisters** [after wearing new, tight shoes].

I **feel sick** / **dizzy** [my head is spinning] / **breathless** / **shivery** [cold and hot] / **faint** [light-headed].

I am **depressed** / **constipated** [not able to go to the toilet] / **tired all the time**.

I've **lost my appetite** / **voice**; I can't sleep, my nose **itches** [I want to scratch it], my leg **hurts**.

B What do doctors do?

They take your temperature, listen to your chest, look in your ears, examine you, take your blood pressure, ask you some questions and weigh and measure you before sending you to the hospital for further tests.

C What's the diagnosis?

You've got **flu** / **chickenpox** / **mumps** [singular noun] / **pneumonia** / **rheumatism** an **ulcer** / a **virus** / a **bug** / **something that's going round**.

You've **broken your wrist** and **sprained/dislocated your ankle**.

You're **pregnant** / a **hypochondriac**.

He **died of lung cancer** / a **heart attack** / a **brain haemorrhage** AIDS.

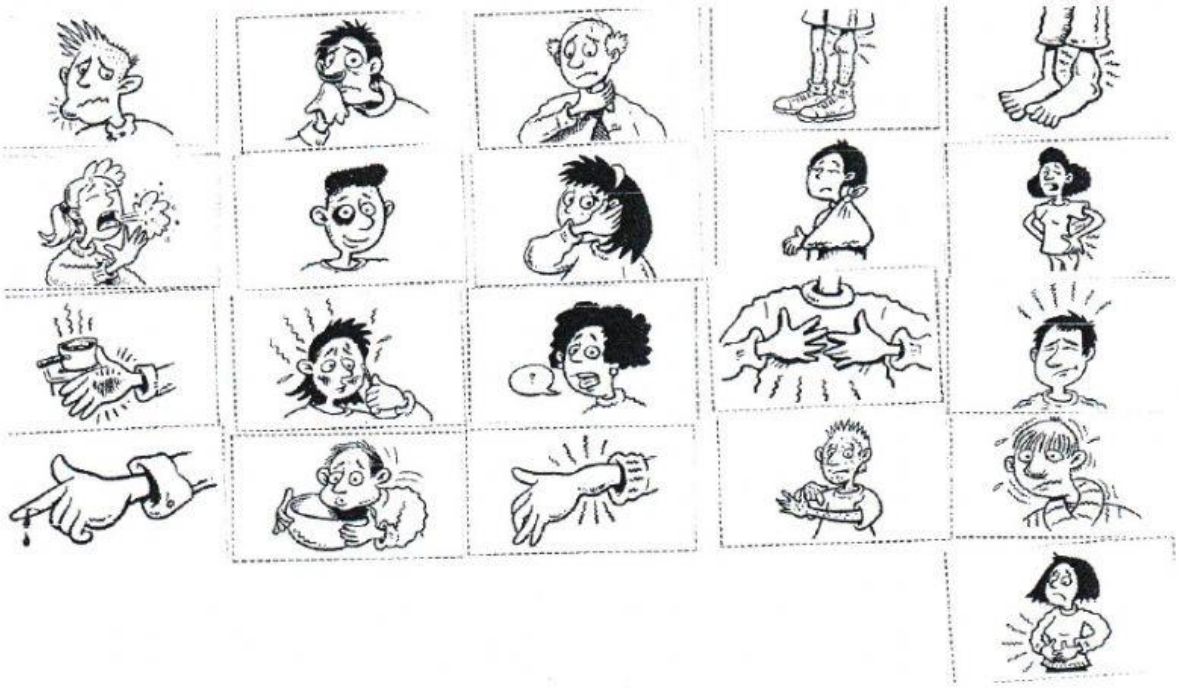
D What does the doctor prescribe?

a) Take one tablet three times a day after meals.
b) Take a teaspoonful of medicine last thing at night.
c) Rub this ointment on you and don't spend too long in the sun without suncream.
d) We'll get the nurse to put a bandage on your wrist.
e) You'll need to have some injections before you go to the Amazon.
f) I'll ask the surgeon when he can fit you in for an operation.
g) You'll have to have your leg put in plaster until the break mends.
h) I think you should have total bed rest for a week.

E What might the doctor ask you?

What would you say if the doctor asked you the following questions?

Do you have health insurance? Have you ever had any operations?
Are you taking any medication? Are you allergic to anything?

ACHES (=DOLORES)

(1) I feel sick = _____
(2) I've broken my arm = _____
(3) I've burnt my hand = _____
(4) I've cut my finger = _____
(5) I've got a black eye = _____
(6) I've got a cold = _____
(7) I've got a cough = _____
(8) I've got a headache = _____
(9) I've got a pain in my chest = _____
(10) I've got a rash = _____
(11) I've got a sore throat = _____
(12) I've got a swollen ankle = _____
(13) I've got a temperature = _____
(14) I've got backache = _____
(15) I've got earache = _____
(16) I've got flu = _____
(17) I've got stomach ache = _____
(18) I've got toothache = _____
(19) I've lost my voice = _____
(20) I've sprained my wrist = _____
(21) My knee hurt s = _____