NURSE MIGRATION

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words	Definitions
1. abroad	A. v., to keep
2. administer	B. adj., not simple
3. bulk	C. v., to gradually go lower, become smaller
4. complex	D. adj., main, most important
5. cripple	E. v., to attract
6. decade	F. n., a position or job that needs to be filled
7. decline	G. n., point of view
8. epidemic	H. n., the total amount available
9. estimate	I. n., period of ten years
10. lure	J. v., to guess based on information
11. primary	K. v., to give medicine or medical treatment
12. qualified	L. v., to cause serious damage; weaken
13. rampant	M. adj., skilled, able to do a job
14. retain	N. adv., in a foreign country
15. rudimentary	O. v., to come from, originate
16. shortage	P. n., the largest part
17. standpoint	Q. adj., spreading out of control
18. stem	R. adj., basic, not well developed
19. supply	S. n., rapid spread of a disease
20. vacancy	T. n., a lack of something

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Reading

Nurse Migration

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 are complex and vary in different regions, a simple, short-term fix will not remedy the situation.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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needs. The United Kingdom, for example, still feels the effects of a cut-back 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.

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.

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.

abroad	complex	qualified
administered	cripple	rudimentary
bulk	lure	shortage

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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.

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words	Definitions
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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