

Today we're going to focus on **dermatology and allergic reactions**, using listening and reading activities from a real doctor–patient interaction.



Listen and choose the correct option. Both options are plausible, but only one is correct.

1. The doctor says the weather is (uncomfortable / unusual) at the moment.
2. The patient says he has a rash with big (blisters / wheals) all over.
3. The patient says he suddenly came out in the rash (last night / this morning).
4. The lotion he applied was (calamine / hydrocortisone).
5. The main symptom the patient reports is (pain / itching).
6. The patient says he has had a similar rash (once before / several times before).
7. The doctor asks if the previous tablets were (Prednisone / Piriton).
8. The patient confirms he is not currently (on any drugs / using any creams).

Remember all conditionals from previous lessons >

Conditional Type	Usage	Structure	Example
Zero Conditional	General truths & facts	If + present simple, present simple	If you heat water to 100°C, it boils.
First Conditional	Possible future situations	If + present simple, will + base verb	If you study, you will pass the exam.
Second Conditional	Hypothetical or unlikely present/future situations	If + past simple, would + base verb	If I were a millionaire, I would travel the world.
Third Conditional	Hypothetical past situations	If + past perfect, would have + past participle	If I had studied, I would have passed the test.

Now read this text and choose the correct option in each pair.

If a patient **has / had** a sudden rash, doctors usually start by asking about possible allergens. If the wheals **are / were** widespread, it can indicate an acute allergic reaction. Many patients panic, but if they **listened / listen** carefully to the doctor's questions, they can often identify a clear trigger.

In John's case, he explained that the rash began the previous night. If he **applied / had applied** a stronger treatment immediately, the symptoms might have reduced earlier, but calamine was all he had. He also mentioned that he had a similar episode before; if he **had kept / kept** the antihistamine tablets from his last visit, he *might not have come / may not come* to the clinic in such discomfort.

Doctors often say that if a patient **is / will be** allergic to something, the body reacts very quickly. However, diagnosing the exact cause isn't always simple. For example, if John **is / were** regularly exposed to pets, the doctor might consider animal dander. But he isn't. If he **took / were taking** regular medication, that could also be a trigger, but he isn't on anything.

In severe cases, if the rash **had progressed / progresses** to swelling or breathing difficulty, emergency treatment would have been necessary. Fortunately, that didn't happen. Still, the doctor explained that if John **doesn't take / didn't take** the prescribed antihistamines right away, the itching might continue to worsen.

Finally, John was advised that if he **has / had** another similar reaction in the future, he should photograph the rash and record any new exposures. That way, if he **comes / came** back to the clinic again, diagnosis will be faster and more accurate.