



# 4 Accidents and emergencies

## LANGUAGE

### 1 Grammar

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 Take / get / do your medication three times a day with food.
- 2 Do I should / have to / shouldn't bandage the wound?
- 3 Shall I / you / he take his pulse?
- 4 Don't to remove / remove / removing burnt clothing.
- 5 Make sure / Make / Make you sure the patient is comfortable.
- 6 Don't let him leaves / let him leave / to let him leave the hospital until the doctor sees him.
- 7 Don't to forget / forget / forgetting to sterilize the needle.
- 8 How I do / are / do I apply the pads?

### 2 Key words from the unit

Complete the sentences with the words from the list.

- 1 You should puncture a \_\_\_\_\_ with a needle.
- 2 You can \_\_\_\_\_ equipment with alcohol.
- 3 First check there are no \_\_\_\_\_ in the wound.
- 4 You should \_\_\_\_\_ a wound with iodine.
- 5 Give CPR to a patient who has had a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Traffic accidents can cause major \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ needles are used for injections.
- 8 Confusion and unconsciousness are signs of \_\_\_\_\_.

swab  
shock  
hypodermic  
sterilize  
cardiac arrest  
trauma  
foreign bodies  
blister

## READING AND VOCABULARY

- A Every day of the year people come through the doors of A&E departments. Some walk and some come on stretchers. They may be victims of road traffic accidents, violence, accidents at home, self-harming, poisoning, burns, and so on.
- B A&E is for people who are seriously injured, perhaps unconscious or losing a lot of blood. Hospitals usually say that A&E departments are only for critical or life-threatening situations.
- C Some people go to A&E with minor injuries like sprains, insect bites, cuts and nose bleeds. They should not be there. Usually they have to wait a long time before they are examined and sometimes staff will send them away.
- D When A&E departments have multiple casualties, after a major incident like a train crash, they have to decide who is a priority and who can wait. To do this they use a procedure called triage.
- E They sort patients into groups. There are those who need immediate surgery, those who are stable but need hospital care, and those who only need first aid. People who are going to die are not a priority for medical care.
- F Nursing in A&E is fast moving and interesting. The high level of stress can sometimes mean that staff suffer emotional problems. A&E staff are well known for their dark sense of humour – they say it helps to deal with the stress of the job.



### 3 Comprehension

Match each paragraph A–F with the correct heading 1–6.

- 1 Triage categories \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 The purpose of triage \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 The purpose of A&E \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A&E staff are victims \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Patients who present to A&E \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Non-emergencies \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the words in the list.

- 1 Use a stretcher to bring in the next \_\_\_\_\_ – she can't walk.
- 2 This patient's condition is \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment, but she needs to see a doctor soon.
- 3 He has \_\_\_\_\_ injuries, but they are not life-threatening.
- 4 This patient is in serious danger – his condition is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 She has cuts and bruising to her face – I'm sure she's a \_\_\_\_\_ of violence.
- 6 This child is seriously ill – he's a \_\_\_\_\_ for immediate treatment.

victim  
critical  
minor  
casualty  
stable  
priority

### 5 Further vocabulary practice

Choose the word or phrase from the list which has the same meaning as the underlined words in sentences 1–6.

- 1 The patient is conscious – you can talk to her now. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Remove the pads from his chest. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Make sure you keep his head still – you might injure his spine. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 He needs treatment immediately. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 If the procedure is not successful, you may have to do it again. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Her condition is serious, but not life-threatening. \_\_\_\_\_

awake and alert  
critical  
immobilize  
take off  
right now  
repeat

## WRITING

## 6 Writing instructions

Read this set of first aid instructions for bruises.

## How to treat bruises

- Apply ice to the bruise to reduce swelling.
- Raise the bruised area so that it is higher than the heart. This reduces internal bleeding.
- Get medical advice if the bruise doesn't get any better after 24 hours.

Write first aid instructions for non-medical people for the treatment and care of cuts and grazes.

Include information about:

- cleaning and hygiene
- how to stop bleeding
- antiseptics
- dressings
- what to do if the bleeding does not stop