

The best medicine?

Doctors are the same as lawyers, the sole difference being that lawyers only rob you, but doctors rob you and kill you too.
Anton Chekhov, Russian playwright (and doctor)

G advanced gerunds and infinitives **V** health and medicine, similes **P** /ə/

1 VOCABULARY health and medicine

a Match the words from the list to definitions 1–10.

allergic reaction antibiotics bandage
faint hypothermia painkillers plaster
plaster-cast stitches swell up

- 1 a case made of thick white plaster that covers a broken bone and protects it
plaster cast
- 2 drugs that reduce pain
analgesics
- 3 become unconscious when not enough blood is going to your brain
syncope
- 4 threads that doctors use to sew the edge of a wound together
sutures
- 5 a response by the body that makes a person develop skin or breathing problems because they have been in contact with a certain substance
allergic reaction
- 6 medicine that can destroy harmful bacteria in the body
antibiotics
- 7 become larger and rounder than usual
swollen
- 8 a piece of material that can be stuck to the skin to protect a wound or a small cut
bandage
- 9 a strip of cloth used for tying around the injured part of a person's body to protect or support it
bandage
- 10 a medical condition in which the body temperature is much lower than normal
hypothermia

b Complete the sentences.

- 1 I need to see my GP _____ to get a prescription for my sleeping pills.
- 2 Sophie got a nasty br _____ on her thigh when she fell down the steps.
- 3 Jack's doctor sent him to a heart sp _____ to find out what was causing the pain in his chest.
- 4 I got a bl _____ on my little toe when I wore my new trainers.

- 5 It took my aunt a long time to walk and talk again after she had a str _____.
- 6 I thought I had a cold, but when I got a temperature I realized it must be the fl _____.
- 7 The s _____ told us that our daughter's operation had gone very well.
- 8 My grandfather was told to take it easy after he had his first h _____ att _____.
- 9 Matt won't be playing basketball at the weekend because he has a spr _____ an _____.
- 10 My son must be allergic to eggs because he comes out in a r _____ every time he eats them.
- 11 Alex is in bed with a nasty bout of f _____ p _____ after eating some mayonnaise that was off.
- 12 Mike is suffering from depression, but his psy _____ seems to be helping him get through it.
- 13 The s _____ -eff _____ of this medicine include nausea and headaches.

2 LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT

What doctors won't do...

Complete the sentences with a verb from the list.

outweigh sink stick to underestimate
undertake vary wean

- 1 It's important that patients wean **themselves off** some prescription drugs very slowly.
- 2 When it comes to living longer, not everyone would agree that **the advantages** _____ **the disadvantages**.
- 3 Pharmaceutical companies _____ **a great deal of research** before they put a new drug on the market.
- 4 **People** _____ **the risks** of self-medicating; taking some types of tablet can be dangerous.
- 5 **It makes my heart** _____ when I see parents giving their children sugary fizzy drinks.
- 6 The price of medicine can _____ **considerably** depending on the brand.
- 7 It isn't easy to _____ **a diet**, especially at Christmas.

3 VOCABULARY FROM LISTENING

Match the sentence halves.

- 1 There's only **anecdotal** d
 - 2 I tried the cream, but it **had** _____
 - 3 He suggested acupuncture, so I'll **give** _____
 - 4 We found fish oil **made** _____
- a **no effect** on my rash – in fact, it made it worse.
b **it a go**.
c **a difference** to our son's bad behaviour.
d **evidence** that hypnotherapy works.

4 GRAMMAR advanced gerunds and infinitives

- a Complete the sentences with the correct gerund or infinitive form of a verb from the list.



become complain finish forget learn
photograph set up sniff take wear

- 1 It's no good complaining about your back. Why don't you make an appointment to see the doctor?
- 2 A couple I know had a plan _____ their own business, but it fell through when they split up.
- 3 You seem _____ a lot today. Have you got a cold?
- 4 Many celebrities say they are fed up with _____ every time they leave the house.
- 5 Eddie apologized for _____ my name the day before.
- 6 What was the last animal _____ extinct?
- 7 Eve would rather _____ a new outfit to the wedding last week, but she couldn't afford one.
- 8 There's no point in _____ antibiotics if you've got a virus.
- 9 I hope _____ everything I need to do by the time our visitors arrive.
- 10 _____ several languages before, I'm finding learning Swedish quite easy.

- b Complete the sentences with three words. Use the correct gerund or infinitive form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I would thoroughly recommend this resort to families with young children. There is plenty for them _____ to _____ do _____. (do)
- 2 I hope _____ less in the future if my boss lets me go part-time. (work)
- 3 I would love _____ my paternal grandfather, but he died before I was born. (meet)
- 4 Our holiday in the south of France was a bit of a disappointment because it wasn't warm _____ in the sea. (swim)
- 5 How frustrating for them _____ the match in the last minute! They must have been extremely disappointed. (lose)
- 6 It is very common for employees _____ redundant when their company is doing badly. (make)
- 7 There's _____ your sister to the wedding. We know she won't come. (invite)
- 8 _____ so early to catch the train, we all fell asleep as soon as it left the station. (get up)
- 9 There's _____ in our village in the evenings – not even a pub. (go)
- 10 Most children enjoy _____ the zoo by their parents. (take)



c Complete the questions with the correct gerund or infinitive form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 What do you remember *being told* _____ to do the last time you had a cold? (tell)
- 2 When you go to the doctor's, how long do you usually have to wait _____? (see)
- 3 Do you know what number _____ if you need an ambulance? What is it? (call)
- 4 Who do you prefer _____ by when you're ill? Why? (look after)
- 5 How would you like the health service in your country _____? (improve)
- 6 What would you do if you saw someone in the street who seemed _____ a heart attack? (have)
- 7 Is there anywhere for people _____ unused medicines where you live? (take)
- 8 Do you think it's important for children _____ vaccinations? Why / Why not? (give)

d Answer the questions in c about you.

The last time I had a cold, I remember being told to get plenty of rest and drink lots of water.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

5 LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT Forget the pills

Match the sentence halves.

- 1 Cutting out salt can **reduce** d
 - 2 A healthy lifestyle may **offset** _____
 - 3 Taking long walks can have **a beneficial** _____
 - 4 Patients are often advised to **reduce** _____
 - 5 It is thought you are less likely to **suffer** _____
 - 6 The media **play an important** _____
 - 7 Office workers are **prone** _____
 - 8 The elderly are encouraged to **take up** _____
- a **the risk of** developing dementia.
 b **to** back pain because they're sitting all day.
 c **social activities** to prevent loneliness.
 d **blood pressure by** a considerable amount.
 e **effect on** your health.
 f **from depression** if you get up early.
 g **role in** determining what we eat.
 h **dependence on** sleeping pills.

6 VOCABULARY & PRONUNCIATION similes; /ə/

a Complete the similes in the sentences with a noun.



- 1 My great-uncle is 82, and he's **as fit as a fiddle** _____.
- 2 Their new baby is **as good as g** _____. All she does all day is eat and sleep.
- 3 I usually **sleep like a l** _____, but last night I woke up at 3.00 and couldn't go back to sleep.
- 4 It took no time at all for my grandmother to get over her operation – she's **as tough as o** _____ **b** _____.
- 5 Your brother-in-law **drinks like a f** _____. Is he an alcoholic?
- 6 My mum is **as stubborn as a m** _____. She refuses to go to the doctor's when she's in pain.
- 7 Alice is **as thin as a r** _____, which is incredible considering how much she eats.
- 8 Our neighbour always has the TV on really loud. He's **as deaf as a p** _____.
- 9 My son always seems to be hungry. He eats **like a h** _____!
- 10 I can't believe I forgot to take my glasses to the cinema. I'm **as blind as a b** _____ without them.

b 8.1 Listen to the sentences and circle the unstressed words with the /ə/ sound.

- 1 The treatment cost a lot more than we'd thought.
- 2 The surgeon arrived as soon as the patient was ready.
- 3 It was too late to see my doctor, so we went straight to the hospital.
- 4 The specialist suggested I went on a diet for a while.
- 5 I'm allergic to plasters, so I never use them.

c Look at the stressed words in b and underline any syllables with the /ə/ sound.

d 8.1 Listen and check. Then listen again and repeat the sentences.