Many people experience common illnesses such as **colds, the flu, headaches, sore throats, stomachaches, allergies, fatigue, coughs, fevers,** and **rashes**. Although some of these conditions have similar symptoms, they are different in terms of their causes, severity, duration, and treatment.

Compared to the common cold, the **flu** is usually more serious because it often causes a high fever, body aches, and extreme fatigue. **While** both illnesses are caused by viruses, people with the flu usually need more time to recover.

A **headache** and a **stomachache** are different because they affect different parts of the body. **Whereas** a headache causes pain in the head, a stomachache affects the digestive system. Neither illness is contagious, but both can be caused by different factors such as stress, dehydration, or eating unhealthy food.

Allergies, **in contrast to** colds and the flu, are not caused by viruses. Instead, they are triggered by substances such as pollen, dust, or certain foods. Allergies may cause sneezing, itchy eyes, coughing, or even a rash. **As opposed to** viral illnesses, allergies cannot spread from one person to another.

A **sore throat** often appears together with a cold or the flu, **while** a **cough** may continue even after other symptoms disappear. A **fever** is not an illness by itself but a sign that the body is fighting an infection. **Compared to** a sore throat, a fever usually indicates that the body is responding to a more serious condition.

Finally, **fatigue** can occur with many illnesses, including the flu, but it may also result from stress or lack of sleep. A **rash**, on the other hand, mainly affects the skin and can be caused by allergies, infections, or skin irritation. Therefore, it is important to identify the cause of an illness before choosing the best treatment.

1. _____ The flu is more serious than the common cold because it usually causes stronger symptoms.
2. _____ Compared to the flu, a common cold is usually more severe and causes a higher fever.
3. _____ Whereas a headache affects the head, a stomachache affects the digestive system.
4. _____ In contrast to allergies, colds are not caused by viruses.
5. _____ Allergies are more contagious than the flu because they spread easily from person to person.
6. _____ Compared to a sore throat, a fever is usually a sign that the body is fighting an infection.
7. _____ While a cough may continue after other symptoms disappear, a sore throat never occurs with a cold.
8. _____ Fatigue is less common during the flu than during a headache.
9. _____ As opposed to a rash, fatigue mainly affects a person's energy level instead of the skin.
10. _____ Compared to allergies, a rash can only be caused by viral infections.

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