

# SEEKING MEDICAL ADVICE IN ENGLISH

**Objective:** Students will learn to use specific vocabulary which will help them in emergency situations in English speaking countries.

**Materials:** Use the sheet provided

## Procedure

Warm up: In English, discuss the types of medical problems and emergencies you could encounter while visiting a foreign country. Talk about the precautions you should take before leaving your country. Ask the students what First Aid procedures they know. Ask them if they've ever had a bad experience abroad and had to go to hospital.

1. Explain that today's club activity will help them deal with these

kinds of emergencies by giving them the necessary vocabulary and set phrases that will help them understand medical advice and to fill out the forms at the hospital or dentist.

2. Read through the first sheets giving general information. Ask students to highlight any vocabulary they are unfamiliar with.
3. Now put them in pairs and give them each the “medical form” and a role-play card. One student should be the “triage nurse” and take the details of the ailment and personal details from the other student. When they have finished, they swap roles. You should monitor their progress and ask questions of your own that you feel would be asked under the circumstances. Encourage the students to do likewise.
4. At the end of the activity ask the students if they need any other vocabulary or there’s something they want to know.

## Read the text carefully

Many countries give reciprocal free treatment in an emergency, but this is only on the same terms as that received by nationals of the foreign country concerned. This usually applies to state health-care systems, which are not so good in some countries. For members of the EU, there is a special form, which entitles the person to emergency medical care throughout the EU. The procedure varies from country to country and details are given on the form. For anyone cruising extensively, it is highly recommended that a worldwide medical insurance be taken out to cover any treatment required, especially if sailing to countries where medical care is expensive, such as the USA, Canada or Australia. This insurance will also often provide for an ill person to be flown home for treatment, which is a wise option to take if the emergency occurs in a country with poor medical facilities.

## Visiting the UK

If you are a national of the EEA, you will be covered for emergency treatment while temporarily visiting the UK. Free treatment only applies to illness or injury, which arose during the visit. Overseas

visitors who are not nationals of the EEA are liable to be charged for NHS treatment.

**Ex. N.1 Fill in the gaps**

BANDAGE   PLASTER   ANTISEPTIC   PAINKILLERS  
SYRINGE   STITCHES  
COTTON WOOL   ANTIHISTAMINE   SUNSTROKE

You use \_\_\_\_\_ to disinfect a wound

If you have a headache you can take \_\_\_\_\_

You get \_\_\_\_\_ if you spend too much time in the sun

If you have an allergy to something, the best thing to ask the chemist for is some \_\_\_\_\_

You should have a \_\_\_\_\_ in your first aid kit if you need an injection in a country where the health facilities are not ideal

If you have a deep cut, the doctor will give you \_\_\_\_\_

For cuts and grazes a \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient

You should wash the infected area gently with some \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a sprained ankle, it's best to put a \_\_\_\_\_ on for support.

## *Medical Form*

SURNAME:

NAME:

D.O.B:

GENDER:

ADDRESS (in the country where you are normally resident):

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POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

TEMPORARY ADDRESS (for the duration of your stay):

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POST CODE:

NATIONAL INSURANCE N°: \_\_\_\_\_

G.P name: \_\_\_\_\_

G.P address: \_\_\_\_\_

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General Questions:

Do you have an E111 form? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you allergic to penicillin or any other drugs?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had any operations in hospital?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a tetanus injection in the last 10 years?

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your blood type?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you taking any medication at the moment?

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any condition that we should be aware of?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Flashcards

You think you had a  
sunstroke

You think you had a  
food poisoning

You think you broke  
your ankle

You think you are  
allergic to something

You constantly have  
headache

Your nose is  
continuously bleeding

You had a small car  
accident

You have a terrible  
toothache