



At the medical centre

Tutor Resources for the AMEP

Health

Intermediate

Tutor Resources for the AMEP

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Theme:

Health

Topic:

At the medical centre

Task	Language focus	Learning activities	Resources
1. Can understand a consultation	<p>Vocabulary consultation, examination, diagnosis, referral, specialist, prognosis, medication, recover, treatment, side-effects, clarify, emphasis, rephrase, strengthen</p> <p>Structure I mean, do you mean, what do you mean, what I'd like to know is, one thing I'd like to know is</p>	<p>Discuss going to the doctor</p> <p>Read about the stages of a consultation</p> <p>Read about and discuss asking for clarification</p> <p>Role play a consultation</p>	<p>Worksheet 1: A consultation Worksheet2: Understanding the doctor</p>

Theme: **Health**Topic: **At the medical centre****Task 1:** Can understand a consultation**Vocabulary:** consultation, examination, diagnosis, referral, specialist, prognosis, medication, recover, treatment, side-effects, clarify, emphasis, rephrase, strengthen**Language structure:** I mean, do you mean, what do you mean, what I'd like to know is, one thing I'd like to know is**Activity instructions***Discuss going to the doctor*

📄 Worksheet 1: A consultation

- A. Look at the picture on the worksheet together.
Learner reads and answers the questions. Discuss.

Read about the stages of a consultation

📄 Worksheet 1: A consultation

- B. Discuss the meaning of 'stages'.
Learner reads about the stages of a consultation. Explain new vocabulary.
Ask: Is this what happens when you go to the doctor?
- C. Learner reads the sentences. Ensure that the learner understands the meanings.
Learner numbers each sentence with a stage of consultation from part B.

Answers

a – 2, b – 1, c – 5, d – 9, e – 3, f – 6, g – 4, h – 7, i – 2, j – 8, k – 5

Read about and discuss asking for clarification

📄 Worksheet 2: Understanding the doctor

- A. If the learner usually sees an English speaking doctor, ask: Do you ever have trouble understanding what the doctor says? If you don't understand, what do you say?

Learner reads the information about understanding what a doctor says.
Together discuss the different ways of asking for clarification.

- B. Learner writes other ways to ask for clarification.
- C. Learner reads and matches what a doctor says to an appropriate clarification question.

Answers

a – 5, b – 4, c – 3, d – 1, e – 2

Role play the dialogue with the tutor as the doctor and the learner as the patient.
Reverse roles.

- D. Discuss the importance of making yourself understood in a doctor's consultation.
Learner reads the information.
Learner completes the sentences with possible ways to clarify meaning.

Role play a consultation

Using the information covered earlier, role play various medical consultations.

Encourage the learner to follow the stages of a consultation and to use the structures such as 'Do you mean...?' etc, to clarify meaning.

Ask: Have you been to see another type of health professional? (dentist, physiotherapist, chiropractor etc).

Role play other types of medical consultations.

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Worksheet 1: A consultation

A. *Look at the picture and discuss the questions.*



1. Who are the people in the picture?
2. Where are they?
3. What might they be saying?

4. Do you have a regular doctor you visit?
5. Does your doctor accept appointments?
6. Do you usually see a doctor on your own, or accompanied by a relative/friend?
7. Do you need an interpreter if you go to the doctor?
8. Can you remember some of the words and phrases you need during a consultation?

B. Read about the stages of a consultation.

The stages of a consultation

Medical consultations are usually in a number of stages. We find some or all of the following stages in most consultations.

1. Starting the consultation
2. Talking about symptoms
3. Examination
4. Diagnosis (saying what causes the symptoms)
5. Referral (giving the patient a letter of introduction to a specialist or another health professional)
6. Prognosis (giving an opinion about how serious the problem is, and what might happen in the future)
7. Suggested treatment
8. Discussing the suggested treatment (answering the patient's questions, informing the patient about any side-effects)
9. Closing

C. Read what the doctors and patients say in some medical consultations.

At which stages of a consultation would they occur?

Write the number of the stage next to each sentence.

- a. **Patient:** I wake up and then I can't get back to sleep.
- b. **Doctor:** Now what seems to be the problem?
- c. **Doctor:** I want you to have an X-ray.
- d. **Patient:** Thank you very much, Doctor. Good bye.
- e. **Doctor:** Stand up and bend forward slowly.
- f. **Doctor:** I'm afraid it may take a long time to recover completely.
- g. **Doctor:** It sounds like you're under more stress than you're used to.
- h. **Doctor:** I'd like you to take some medication to ease the pain.
- i. **Patient:** I've got terrible pain in my lower back.
- j. **Patient:** Doctor, are there any side effects of the medication?
- k. **Doctor:** I think you should see a specialist.

Worksheet 2: Understanding the doctor

A. Discuss

In a medical consultation, we need to make sure that we understand exactly what the doctor or specialist has said.

You can clarify the doctor's meaning in different ways.

1. Ask a simple question. For example:
 - 'Sorry?'
 - 'Pardon?'
 - 'What do you mean exactly?'
2. Repeat the word or phrase with emphasis and ask a question. For example:
 - 'I take **two** tablets before meals?'
3. Rephrase what the doctor has said (say what you think the doctor said but use your own words). When we rephrase, we often introduce what we will say with phrases such as:
 - 'You mean...?'
 - 'Do you mean...?'For example:
Doctor: 'Just pop up on the bed and I'll have a look.'
Patient: '**You mean**, you want me to sit on the bed?'
4. Ask a question to get more information. For example:
 - '**Who** do you want me to see?'
 - '**How long** will it take?'
5. Let your doctor know you need more information. Introduce your question with a phrase such as:
 - 'One thing I'd like to know is...'
 - 'But what I really want to know is...'

B. Can you think of any other ways to ask what the doctor means? Write them here.

C. Read some things a doctor might say to someone with back pain.
Match them with the clarification questions.

Doctor

1. When was it that you felt your back go?
2. Do you know what you could do to strengthen your back?
3. Have you been doing anything out of the ordinary lately?
4. Now pop your top off and I'll have a listen to your chest.
5. What about at night?

Patient

- a. 5 Do you mean, how am I sleeping?
- b. You mean, take my shirt off?
- c. You mean, have I been doing anything differently?
- d. You mean, when did I hurt my back?
- e. Strengthen, what do you mean?

D. Write a clarification for each statement.

It's also very important to clarify what **you** mean.
You can start your clarification with a phrase such as:

- I mean...
- What I mean is...
- What I want to say is...

1. The pain makes it difficult to sleep.

I mean _____

2. I've had this back problem for more than two months now.

What I mean is _____
