The Body and Health

Parts of the body, illnesses and treatments, and the precise words of doctors, health claims and body idioms, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 17

What's the matter? · come down with · under the weather

The body *A1–A2*

head	face
eye	ear
nose	mouth
tooth → teeth	neck, shoulder
arm	hand, finger
back, stomach	leg, knee
foot → feet	toe

one tooth, two teeth · one foot, two feet

When you are ill *A1–A2*

a cold	a cough
a headache	a sore throat
a temperature	toothache
stomach ache	doctor
nurse	medicine, tablet
chemist's	pharmacist
My … hurts.	Get well soon!

I've got a cold · My head hurts

Injuries and treatments *B1–B2*

Injuries and symptoms: sprain, bruise, cut, burn, swollen, dizzy, be sick, a rash, an allergy, a fever, an infection

Treatments: a prescription, painkillers, antibiotics, a plaster, a bandage, stitches, an X-ray, a check-up

Phrasal verbs: come down with, get over, pass out, throw up, cut down on, work out

British / American: chemist's / drugstore, GP / family doctor, A&E / ER, plaster / Band-Aid

Help in England: pharmacist, GP, NHS 111, A&E, 999 or 112

*I **sprained** my ankle and it's **swollen**. I **came down with** flu, and it took two weeks to **get over** it.*

A doctor writes a prescription; a cook follows a recipe

Register and idiom *C1–C2*

Precise pairs: acute / chronic, benign / malignant, symptom / sign, diagnosis / prognosis

Medical words: contagious, inflammation, immune system, side effect, placebo, sedentary

Evidence: a controlled trial, a control group, no link was found, patient-reported symptoms

Idioms: under the weather, cost an arm and a leg, a pain in the neck, keep your chin up, break a leg, get cold feet, on your last legs, by the skin of your teeth, a sight for sore eyes, as fit as a fiddle

*She was **diagnosed with** a **chronic** condition, but the **prognosis** is good.*

Chronic means long-lasting, not severe

At the doctor's

- *What's the matter?*
- *I've got a sore throat.*
- *My back hurts.*
- *I need to see a doctor.*

Common mistakes

- ~~I'm constipated.~~ (a cold) → I've got **a cold**.
- ~~two tooths~~ → two **teeth**
- ~~The head hurts me.~~ → **My head** hurts.
- ~~a recipe for antibiotics~~ → a **prescription**

Words with a past

- **stomach**: Greek *stoma*, mouth
- **nostril**: Old English "nose-hole"
- **sedentary**: Latin *sedere*, to sit
- **influenza**: Italian for "influence"

My new words

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com · Free to print and share in class