

At the chemist

Listen to a conversation at a chemist's to practise and improve your listening skills.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Write the words in the correct group.

it hurts	a prescription	an ache	lozenges	a sore throat
dizzy	plasters	tablets	a cough	syrup

Describing illness	Medicines and treatment

Tasks

Task 1

Circle the best option.

1. The man needs something ...
 - a. for his throat.
 - b. for his head.
 - c. for his wife.

2. The man ...
 - a. is coughing and has a headache.
 - b. is coughing but doesn't have a headache.
 - c. isn't coughing, but has a headache.

3. The lozenges are ...
 - a. cheaper than the syrup.
 - b. not as cheap as the syrup.
 - c. more expensive than the syrup.

4. He should have the lozenge ...
 - a. every four to six hours, after he eats a meal.
 - b. every four to six hours, with food.
 - c. every four to six hours, before he eats a meal.

5. The pharmacist can't give him antibiotics because ...
 - a. his prescription is only for tablets.
 - b. he doesn't have enough money.
 - c. he doesn't have a prescription.

6. The man has to pay ...
 - a. £7.49.
 - b. £17.49.
 - c. £7.99.

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. throat. need for I something sore a
2. really hurts. It
3. have Do you a too? headache
4. do take? I How many
5. take How should I often it?
6. any medicine? Are allergic to you
7. prescription for I'm need a afraid that. you
8. a should You really see doctor.

Discussion

How often do you get a cough or a cold? What do you recommend?

Transcript

Chemist: Hello, can I help?

Customer: Yes, my wife sent me here. I, erm, need something for a sore throat ... and I can't stop coughing. It really hurts.

Chemist: Do you have a headache too?

Customer: Not really, no.

Chemist: Well, we have this syrup. And these lozenges.

Customer: Which is better?

Chemist: They're both good. The syrup is more expensive.

Customer: Oh, well ... I'll take the lozenges, then. How many do I take?

Chemist: Just one.

Customer: Sorry, I'm sorry. Er, how often should I take it?

Chemist: Just one every four to six hours. Take it before mealtimes. Are you allergic to any medicine?

Customer: No.

Chemist: Then you'll be fine with this.

Customer: Can I get some antibiotics too?

Chemist: I'm afraid you need a prescription for that.

Customer: Ah.

Chemist: You know, you should really see a doctor if that cough continues.

Customer: Thanks. I know.

Chemist: Anything else?

Customer: No, thanks.

Chemist: That'll be £7.49 then, please.

Answers

Preparation task

Describing illness	Medicines and treatment
it hurts	a prescription
an ache	lozenges
dizzy	plasters
a cough	tablets
a sore throat	syrup

Task 1

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. c
6. a

Task 2

1. I need something for a sore throat.
2. It really hurts.
3. Do you have a headache too?
4. How many do I take?
5. How often should I take it?
6. Are you allergic to any medicine?
7. I'm afraid you need a prescription for that.
8. You should really see a doctor.