

# Language for ...

## medical emergencies

### 1. Warmer

- a. Work in groups. You have two minutes to add more words to the lists below.

Parts of the body	
External	Internal
hand	heart
face	stomach

When you have finished, share your answers with another group for correction. Which group has the most words?

- b. Work in the same groups. The 6 verbs below are all related to medical problems. Use the letters to complete the verbs.

1. If you drink some very hot tea, it will b \_ \_ \_ \_ your mouth.
2. When you are making a sandwich, don't u \_ \_ your hand with the knife!
3. Humans can't b \_ \_ \_ \_ e when they're under water!
4. If you eat too much chocolate, you will h \_ \_ \_ \_ a stomach ache.
5. Don't run in the house! You'll f \_ \_ \_ \_ down the stairs!
6. If you try to pick up something very heavy, you could i \_ w \_ \_ \_ \_ your back.

Discuss: Do you know the Past Simple form of each verb above?

- c. Discuss the questions below with your classmate.

1. Think of common medical emergencies that happen ...

- in the kitchen
- at the swimming pool
- during a football game
- in a restaurant
- in a classroom full of small children

2. What should you do if you ...?

- work a lot of hours and now you have a headache.
- touch something hot and burn your finger
- have a blocked nose because of a bad cold
- fall off your bike and injure your leg
- cut your finger when you're cooking

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### 2. Text

In this part of the lesson, you will read about 4 people who need to phone an ambulance. In each conversation, the Caller is the person with the medical emergency; the Operator is the medical expert.

a. Read the 4 texts and decide if the sentences after each text are true or false. Use the Explainer at the end of the 4 texts to help you understand the underlined expressions.

1.

**Operator:** Can you describe the problem to me, please?

**Caller:** Yes. I was cutting some vegetables and I cut my hand!

**Operator:** Ok, and is your hand bleeding?

**Caller:** Yes, there's a lot of blood! I need help!

**Operator:** Ok. Try to stay calm. How big is the wound?

**Caller:** About two centimetres long and one centimetre deep.  
It's horrible!

**Operator:** Ok. I'll send an ambulance to you. But first, you need to try to stop the bleeding.

**Caller:** Ok, how?

**Operator:** I need you to find a clean T-shirt. Put it on the wound and push down very hard.



i. The caller seems quite calm.

True  False

ii. The caller needs to put a T-shirt on his hand.

True  False

2.

**Operator:** Hello. What's your emergency, please?

**Caller:** Yes, my sister has fainted!

**Operator:** Ok. And is she conscious now?

**Caller:** No. She's completely unconscious.

**Operator:** And is she breathing?

**Caller:** Yes, she's breathing normally.

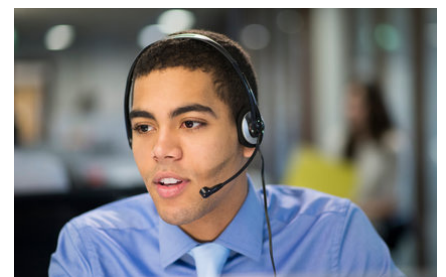
**Operator:** Ok. What happened exactly?

**Caller:** We were eating lunch. And suddenly she stopped talking and fell on the floor.

**Operator:** Ok. And did she hit her head when she fell?

**Caller:** No.

**Operator:** Ok. An ambulance will be there in a few minutes. But first, I need you to put her in the recovery position. So, make sure she's lying on her right side, with her left arm under her head.



iii. The caller's sister is not awake.

True  False

iv. The operator tells the caller not to touch her sister.

True  False

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3.

**Operator:** Could you tell me what the problem is, please?

**Caller:** Yes. My daughter was playing in the kitchen and she swallowed some washing powder. And now she feels sick.

**Operator:** Ok, so she ate a toxic substance.

**Caller:** Exactly.

**Operator:** Is she conscious and breathing?

**Caller:** Yes.

**Operator:** And is her face swollen?

**Caller:** No, her face is normal. But her neck is a little red, so I'm worried that she's having an allergic reaction.

**Operator:** Ok. I'll send an ambulance to you. But first, I want you to give her a glass of water. She needs to drink it slowly. And if she starts to vomit, that's ok.



v. The child feels sick because she ate some bad food.

True  False

vi. The child is having a very strong reaction.

True  False

4.

**Operator:** Hello. Can you tell me what your emergency is, please?

**Caller:** Yes, I think my friend is having a heart attack! He needs an ambulance quickly!

**Operator:** Ok. What are his symptoms?

**Caller:** He has very strong chest pain and he says he feels sick.

**Operator:** Is he conscious?

**Caller:** Yes, but his face is very pale.

**Operator:** Ok. The ambulance will be there very soon. I need you to stay with your friend until it arrives.

**Caller:** I know how to do CPR. Should I start it?

**Operator:** No. Your friend is conscious, and the ambulance will be there in two minutes. So there's no need for CPR – give him space so that he can breathe.



vii. The situation is not really an emergency.

True  False

ix. The operator tells the caller not to touch her friend.

True  False

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### Explainer:

**to put somebody in the recovery position** = to move a person so that they are in a safe position and can breathe (usually this position is lying on the floor, looking to the side)

**a toxic substance** = a chemical, plant, or object which can cause a bad reaction if you eat it, breathe it, or touch it (e.g. a poison)

**an allergic reaction** = a condition in which you become sick or your skin becomes covered with red marks as a reaction to something you eat, breathe, or touch

**CPR** = (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) a treatment in which you press someone's chest repeatedly to make them start breathing again and make their heart start working again

**b. In the texts above, there are 12 phrases highlighted in grey. These phrases are in categories in the table below. Match each phrase to its definition.**

<i>Verbs</i>	<i>Adjectives</i>	<i>Nouns</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>bleed</b> /bli:d/</li> <li>• <b>faint</b> /feɪnt/</li> <li>• <b>hit</b> /hɪt/</li> <li>• <b>swallow</b> /'swɒləʊ/</li> <li>• <b>vomit</b> /'vɒmɪt/</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>conscious</b> /'kɒnʃəs/</li> <li>• <b>unconscious</b> /ʌn'kɒnʃəs/</li> <li>• <b>swollen</b> /'swɒləʊn/</li> <li>• <b>pale</b> /peɪl/</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>wound</b> /wu:nd/</li> <li>• <b>heart attack</b> /'hɑ:(r)tətæk/</li> <li>• <b>symptom</b> /'sɪmptəm/</li> </ul>

### Definitions:

- \_\_\_\_\_ = an injury on your skin, usually serious and with blood
- \_\_\_\_\_ = when an area of your body gets bigger as a result of an injury or an illness
- \_\_\_\_\_ = when food comes up from your stomach and out through your mouth because you are ill
- \_\_\_\_\_ = awake and able to see, hear, and think
- \_\_\_\_\_ = a sign that someone has an illness
- \_\_\_\_\_ = when a person's skin is a lighter colour than usual because they are ill, shocked, or worried
- \_\_\_\_\_ = to have blood flowing from your body, for example from a cut in your skin
- \_\_\_\_\_ = in a condition similar to sleep in which you do not see, feel, or think, usually because you are injured
- \_\_\_\_\_ = to move quickly onto an object or surface, touching it with force/impact
- \_\_\_\_\_ = when someone suddenly has a lot of pain in their chest and their heart stops working
- \_\_\_\_\_ = to suddenly become unconscious for a short time, and usually fall to the ground
- \_\_\_\_\_ = to make food or drink go from your mouth down through your throat and into your stomach

Discuss: Look again at the table above. In the *Verbs* column, do you know the Past Simple form of each?

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### 3. Language in Use

**a. Complete each sentence using one word from the previous tasks.**

1. In hot weather, it's important to wear a hat, clothes and sun cream. That way, the sun can't burn your \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If you have a pain in your \_\_\_\_\_, it doesn't always mean that you are having a heart attack! Perhaps it could be related to stress, or to something you ate.
3. If you're feeling extremely nervous, it's important to \_\_\_\_\_ slowly and try to take in as much air as you can.
4. Yesterday, I hit my finger against the wall. Now my finger is completely \_\_\_\_\_ - it's so big!
5. After you have an operation, it's important to wash the \_\_\_\_\_ until your skin returns to normal.
6. The last time that I fainted, I was completely \_\_\_\_\_ for about a minute. When I woke up, I didn't know where I was!
7. If a person is having a heart attack, a common \_\_\_\_\_ is to feel pain in the left arm.
8. Mike can't eat some types of fish because they make him have an \_\_\_\_\_ reaction. It's quite dangerous!

**b. Look at these three sentences in the box. They're from the texts in Task 2. Then follow the instructions below.**

- I was cutting some vegetables and I cut my hand!
- We were eating lunch. And suddenly, she stopped talking and fell on the floor.
- My child was playing in the kitchen and she swallowed some washing powder.

**1. In each sentence:**

- draw a circle around the structure(s) in the Past Continuous
- draw a line under the verb(s) in the Past Simple

For each of the rules below, choose the correct tense.

- The **Past Simple / Past Continuous** describes an action or situation which was in progress in the past.
- The **Past Simple / Past Continuous** describes an action in the past which interrupted another action or situation.

**2. Complete each sentence by putting the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.**

- i. Maria \_\_\_\_\_ (*run*) across the street when she \_\_\_\_\_ (*fall*) and \_\_\_\_\_ (*injure*) her leg.
- ii. Ahmed \_\_\_\_\_ (*cut*) his finger when he \_\_\_\_\_ (*make*) dinner. Then his finger \_\_\_\_\_ (*start*) to bleed.
- iii. The man \_\_\_\_\_ (*do*) a very important exam when he \_\_\_\_\_ (*start*) to feel ill. Suddenly, he \_\_\_\_\_ (*faint*)!

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### 4. Communication

Speak in pairs, taking it in turns to be the caller or the operator. For each conversation, follow these instructions:

- If you are the **caller**, describe the medical emergency which you have. You must include the 3 words/phrases suggested in the role-card. Remember to use verbs in the appropriate tenses.
- If you are the **operator**, listen carefully to the caller. Ask questions and make decisions, as suggested in the role-card.

To begin, your teacher will give an example.

Caller role-card	Operator role-card
<i>(The caller is Student A for Conversations 1&amp;3, and Student B for Conversations 2&amp;4)</i>	<i>(The operator is Student B for Conversations 1&amp;3, and Student A for Conversations 2&amp;4)</i>
<p><b>Conversation 1</b> (Caller = Student A): <i>fall, cut, faint</i></p> <p><b>Conversation 2</b> (Caller = Student B): <i>pale, allergic reaction, swollen</i></p> <p><b>Conversation 3</b> (Caller = Student A): <i>swallow, toxic substance, vomit</i></p> <p><b>Conversation 4</b> (Caller = Student B): <i>hit, injure, wound</i></p>	<p><b>You need to know:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what happened</li> <li>- if the patient is breathing</li> <li>- if the patient is bleeding</li> <li>- if the patient is conscious</li> </ul> <p><b>Decide if you need to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- send an ambulance</li> <li>- ask the caller to do some action</li> <li>- give other suggestions to the caller</li> </ul>

### 5. Discuss

Discuss the questions with your classmate:

Describe a time when you were ill.

Describe a time when you injured yourself.

In your country, what phone number do people call if they need an ambulance?

Describe a time when you saw a person who had an accident.

Describe an item in your home which you think is dangerous. Explain why.

Do you think that your country has good hospitals? Explain.

#### Red Words

burn (verb)\*\*\*    cut (verb)\*\*\*    breathe\*\*    ache (noun)\*    fall (verb)\*\*\*    injure\*\*    headache\*  
 bleed\*    blood\*\*\*    wound (noun)\*\*    ambulance\*\*    faint (verb)\*    conscious\*\*    unconscious\*  
 hit (verb)\*\*\*    recovery\*\*\*    swallow (verb)\*\*    sick (adjective)\*\*\*    toxic\* substance\*\*\*    swollen\*  
 reaction\*\*\*    vomit (verb)\*    heart attack\*    symptom\*\*    pain\*\*\*    pale (adjective)\*\*\*    injury\*\*\*  
 illness\*\*\*    ill (adjective)\*\*\*    dangerous\*\*\*    accident\*\*\*