# Health and Disease Wordlist

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| **Word** | **Definition** | **Contextual Sentence** | **Translation** |
| abstinence | the practice of avoiding something such as alcohol or sex. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **Aedes mosquito** | a type of mosquito (=a small flying insect that bites people and takes their blood.) Aedes mosquitoes are dangerous because they carry the parasites (= organisms that live on another living creature) that cause dengue fever and yellow fever in humans. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| AIDS | acquired immune deficiency syndrome: a serious disease that destroys the body’s ability to defend itself against infection. It is caused by the virus, HIV. **noun [uncount]** | *The AIDS virus is a serious problem in Africa.* |  |
| **Anopheles mosquito** | a type of mosquito (=a small flying insect that bites people and takes their blood.) Anopheles mosquitoes are dangerous because they carry the parasites (=organisms that live on another living creature) that cause malaria in humans. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| antibiotic | a drug, for example penicillin, that cures illnesses and infections caused by bacteria. **noun [count]** | *She was prescribed antibiotics for her kidney infection.* |  |
| antibody | a substance that the body produces to fight illnesses and infections. Antibodies are an important part of the immune system that protects the body against disease (plural: antibodies). **noun [count]** | *Breast milk contains antibodies which help babies fight infections.* |  |
| antigen | a harmful substance in the body that causes the body to produce antibodies to fight it. Bacteria, viruses, and some other chemicals are antigens. **noun [count]** | *Harmful antigens are destroyed by antibodies.* |  |
| antiseptic | a substance that is used for cleaning injured skin and preventing infections. **noun [count /uncount]** | *The nurse bathed the wound with antiseptic.* |  |
| arsenic | a poisonous grey solid element that is a metalloid. It is used to make alloys. Chemical symbol: As. **noun [uncount]** | *She poisoned him by putting arsenic in his tea.* |  |
| athlete’s foot | an infection in which the skin between the toes becomes sore, cracked, and itchy. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| bilharzia / | a serious tropical disease caused by worms that live in rivers, lakes etc, which enter the body through the skin and live in the bloodstream. Bilharzia causes anaemia and fever. It is also called schistosomiasis. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| birth rate | the official number of births in a particular year or place. **noun [count]** | *The birth rate was gradually falling.* |  |
| **cervical cancer** | cancer (=a serious disease in which the body’s cells grow in an uncontrolled way) that affects the cervix (=the entrance to the uterus). **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| cervix | the entrance to the uterus. **noun [count]** | *The cervix is a ring of muscle which relaxes when a baby is born.* |  |
| chickenpox | an infectious disease that most children get once, in which the skin is covered with red spots. **noun [uncount]** | *He stayed at home because he had chicken pox.* |  |
| **chloroquine** | a drug that you can take in order to prevent malaria (=a serious disease caused by mosquitoes). **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| clot | if blood or another liquid clots or something clots it, it becomes thick and stops flowing. **verb [transitive/intransitive]** |  |  |
| cockroach | an insect with hard flat wings and long antennae. It lives in warm places and where food is kept. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| condom | a thin rubber tube that a man covers his penis with during sex in order to reduce the chance of a woman becoming pregnant. It also helps to protect against the spread of diseases. **noun [count]** | *Using a condom can help to reduce the spread of AIDS.* |  |
| contagious | a contagious disease spreads easily from one person or animal to another. A person or animal that is contagious has a disease that spreads easily to others. **adjective** | *He couldn’t go to the party because his infection was contagious* |  |
| contaminate | to make something dirty, polluted, or poisonous by adding a harmful substance. **verb [transitive]** | *Industrial sewage continues to contaminate our beaches.* |  |
| contraception | the methods that are used for preventing a woman from becoming pregnant, or the use of these methods. **noun [uncount]** | *No method of contraception is completely safe.* |  |
| contraceptive | a drug, method, or object that is used for preventing a woman from becoming pregnant. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **Culex mosquito** | a type of mosquito (=a small flying insect that bites people and takes their blood.) Culex mosquitoes are dangerous because they carry the parasites (=organisms that live on another living creature) that cause elephantiasis in humans. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| DDT | dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethylane: a poisonous chemical used for killing insects. It destroys crops and also kills other animals and is dangerous to humans, and so it is no longer allowed in many countries. This kind of chemical is called a pesticide or an insecticide.  **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| death rate | the number of deaths in a particular area in one year. **noun [count]** | *The death rate was gradually rising.* |  |
| decrease | **1** to become less. **verb [intransitive]**  **2** to reduce something. **verb [transitive]**  **3** the process of becoming less, or the amount by which something is less. **noun [count/uncount]** | *The rate of infection has decreased significantly.*  *The new system decreases the risk to public health.*  *Improved antenatal care has led to a substantial decrease in death rates among newborn babies.* |  |
| dengue fever | a very serious illness that you get if a mosquito infected with a particular virus bites you. Dengue fever causes fever, headaches, and pain in the joints. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| discharge | a liquid that comes out of someone’s body when they are ill. **noun [count/uncount]** | *If there is a discharge from the wound, go and see your doctor* |  |
| disinfectant | a chemical substance that kills bacteria, used for cleaning things. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| droppings | the faeces of animals or birds. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **dung** | waste, especially from the body of a farm animal. It can be used to fertilize crops, or to produce biogas (fuel). **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **elephantiasis** | a serious disease in which a leg or another part of the body becomes very swollen. It is caused by a parasite carried by the Culex mosquito. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| flatworm | an invertebrate worm with a long, soft, flat body. Many flatworms, for example tapeworms, are parasites. **noun [count]** | *Liver flukes are parasitic flatworms.* |  |
| flea | a small jumping insect that feeds on the blood of mammals and birds. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **foreign material** | any material that does not form a normal part of the body and could enter it through a wound. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **fungal parasite** | a fungus (= an organism like a plant but with no leaves, flowers or green colour) that lives and feeds on another living organism such as a plant or an animal. Mould on decaying food and athlete’s foot are both caused by fungal parasites. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **fungicidal cream** | a cream that you put on your body to treat a skin fungus such as athlete’s foot or ringworm. **noun [count/uncount**] |  |  |
| **genital herpes** | a disease caused by a virus that can make painful spots (blisters) appear on the sex organs. It can be passed from a mother to her child during birth and increases the risk of cervical cancer. There is no cure for it. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **German measles** | an infectious disease that causes red spots on the skin. German measles is a minor illness but can cause serious physical damage to unborn children. The technical name for this disease is rubella. noun **[uncount]** |  |  |
| gonorrhoea | a disease affecting the sex organs that is passed on during sex. If it is not treated, it can cause the infected person to become sterile (=unable to have children). **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| hatch (eggs) | if a baby bird, fish, or insect hatches, or if it is hatched, it comes out of its egg. **verb [intransitive/transitive]** |  |  |
| **head lice** | tiny insects with six legs and no wings that live in the hair of humans. They bite the skin to suck blood, which causes itching. Their eggs are called nits (singular head louse) **noun [plural]** |  |  |
| HIV | human immunodeficiency virus: a virus that attacks the immune system and causes AIDS. The main ways HIV is spread are by having sex without condoms and sharing hypodermic needles. Babies of infected mothers can be born with HIV. It is also called HIV/AIDS. **noun [uncount]** | *Over half the children here were born with HIV.* |  |
| host | a plant or animal that has another organism, called a parasite, living on it. **noun [count]** | *Tapeworms live inside the intestines of their host.* |  |
| housefly | a very common flying insect that often lives in houses and is attracted by food. Houseflies can spread disease by landing on food, and also lay eggs in food that turn into maggots. (plural houseflies) **noun [count]** |  |  |
| immune system | the system in the body that protects against diseases by recognizing any cells, tissues, or organisms that do not belong to it such as bacteria or viruses and taking action against them. **noun [count]** | *People with AIDS easily catch diseases because HIV destroys the immune system.* |  |
| immunity | the protection that the body gives against a particular disease (plural immunities) **noun [count/uncount]** | *Vaccinations give you immunity from specific diseases.* |  |
| incinerator | a machine that destroys rubbish or other material by burning it completely. **noun [count]** | *Some garbage is disposed of by being burned in incinerators.* |  |
| incision | a cut made into someone’s body during a medical operation. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| infection | **1** the process of becoming infected with a disease that is caused by bacteria or by a virus or a parasite. **noun [uncount]**  **2** a disease that is caused by bacteria or by a virus or a parasite. **noun [count]** | *He was suffering from a throat infection.* |  |
| infectious | **1** an infectious disease is caused by bacteria or by a virus or a parasite and can spread from one person to another. **adjective**  **2** a person or animal that is infectious has a disease that is caused by bacteria or by a virus or a parasite and that can spread from one person or animal to another. **adjective** | *The condition is highly infectious.*  *Joe was still infectious with chicken pox so he couldn’t go to the party.* |  |
| infestation | a situation in which a lot of insects or animals are in a place and are causing damage or disease. **noun [count/uncount]** | *There was an infestation of rats in the barn so the farmer put down poison.* |  |
| inflamed | swollen and painful because of an infection or injury. **adjective** | *Her hand became inflamed because of the infection.* |  |
| inflammation | an area on your body that is swollen and painful because of an infection or injury. **noun [count/uncount]** | *A steroid cream can help reduce inflammation.* |  |
| **insect repellent** | a substance that you put on your body or in a room to keep harmful insects such as mosquitoes away. **noun [count/uncount]** | *To avoid being bitten, cover up before dusk and use insect repellent on exposed parts of your body.* |  |
| insecticide | a chemical used for killing insects. **noun [count]** | *The flies were killed by spraying them with insecticide.* |  |
| **intrauterine device** | a small object made of plastic or metal that is put inside a woman’s uterus to prevent her becoming pregnant. It works by stopping a fertilized egg from becoming implanted in the wall of the uterus. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| larva | a form that some insects and amphibians take after they have hatched from the egg and before they develop into their adult form. After a period of time, an insect larva changes into a pupa, inside which the adult insect develops. noun [count] (plural larvae /"lA…vi…/) **noun [count]** | *The caterpillar is the larva of a butterfly.* |  |
| latex rubber | a substance that is used for making condoms. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| leptospirosis | a disease caused by bacteria that affects the kidneys and liver of humans and other mammals. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| lymphocyte | a white blood cell that attacks antigens (=harmful substances that the body reacts to). **noun [count]** | *Lymphocytes produce antibodies.* |  |
| malaria | a very serious illness that you can get if a mosquito infected with a particular parasite bites you. Malaria causes fever, shivering, and sweating, and it can be fatal. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| measles | a very infectious disease caused by a virus that causes red spots to appear on the body and a high temperature. Measles can cause death in young children. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| meningitis | a serious illness affecting the brain and spinal cord. It is caused by a bacterium or a virus and can cause death. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| microorganism | a very small living thing that you can see only with a microscope. **noun [count]** | *Bacteria are microorganisms.* |  |
| mucus | a liquid that is produced inside the nose and other parts of your body. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| nausea | the feeling that you are going to vomit. **noun [uncount]** | *Side effects of the drug can include headaches and nausea.* |  |
| navel | the small round place in the middle of the skin on the abdomen. **noun [count]** | *Your navel is the scar left by cutting the umbilical cord when you are born.* |  |
| nits | the eggs of insects called head lice that people sometimes have in their hair. **noun [plural]** |  |  |
| opportunistic | an opportunistic disease or infection is one that attacks someone who is already ill and has a weak immune system. **adjective** | *People with HIV are subject to opportunistic infections.* |  |
| overpopulation | the problem of there being too many people in a particular place, so that they cannot all have a decent standard of living. **noun [uncount]** | *Overpopulation is one of the main causes of poverty.* |  |
| parasite | an organism that lives in or on another living thing and feeds on it. Lice, fleas, and tapeworms are all types of parasite. The organism that a parasite lives on is called the host. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| pathogen | a microorganism such as a bacterium or virus that causes disease. **noun [count]** | *Many pathogens live and breed in dirty surroundings.* |  |
| **pathogenic** | causing disease. Pathogenic agents include viruses and bacteria. **adjective** |  |  |
| penicillin | a drug used for treating illnesses that are caused by bacteria. Penicillin is an antibiotic. **noun [uncount]** | *The doctor prescribed penicillin for her throat infection.* |  |
| **phagocyte** | a cell in an organism that gets rid of bacteria and other harmful cells by taking them into itself and [digesting](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/d/digest.htm) them. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **pheromone** | a chemical that an insect produces that spreads in the air and influences the behaviour of other insects of the same type. Pheromones can be used as a method of pest control. The pheromones are put into traps which attract and catch the male insects, so that the females cannot breed. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **pinworm** | a small thin worm that is a parasite of humans. They live in the intestines and are spread by contact as a result of poor hygiene. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **pit latrine** | a type of outside toilet that consists of hole in the floor built over a large hole in the ground (a pit). **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **Plasmodium** | a parasite (= an organism that lives on another living creature) that lives in female Anopholes mosquitoes and causes malaria. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **population explosion** | a very large increase in the number of people in a place over a very short period of time. **noun [count]** | The human population explosion started in about 1800 |  |
| **premature** | a premature baby is born before it should be. **adjective** | *Although 3 weeks premature, the baby was healthy.* |  |
| prevent | to stop something from happening. **verb [transitive]** | *Valves prevent blood from flowing the wrong way out of the heart.* |  |
| **progestin** | a hormone (= a chemical substance produced by the body) such as progesterone that prepares a woman’s body for pregnancy (also called: progestogen). **noun [count]** |  |  |
| rash | an area of small red spots on the skin that is caused by a disease or by a reaction to something. **noun [count]** | *The doctor took a look at the rash and said it was measles.* |  |
| rat | a small, furry mammal like a large mouse with a long tail. Rats are regarded as pests because they eat our food, destroy things and can spread disease. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **resistant** | not harmed or affected by something. **adjective** | *a disease that is resistant to antibiotics* |  |
| rodent | a type of mammal that has long sharp front teeth, for example a rat or a porcupine. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| rot | to decay by a gradual natural process, or to make something decay in this way. **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *All those sweets will rot your teeth.* |  |
| roundworm | an invertebrate animal like a worm that is a parasite of humans, especially children. It lives in the intestines and can reproduce very quickly. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **Schistosoma** | a type of flatworm (=invertebrate animal) that causes a serious disease called bilharzia or schistosomiasis. It is found in infected water and passes into humans through their skin. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **schistosomiasis** | a serious tropical disease caused by worms that live in rivers, lakes etc, which enter the body through the skin and live in the bloodstream. Schistosomiasis causes anaemia and fever. It is also called bilharzia. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| sebum | a substance like oil produced by the sebaceous glands that stops the hair and skin from drying out and also protects against some bacteria. **noun [uncount]** | *Sebum keeps the skin supple.* |  |
| septic tank | a large container buried under the ground and used for collecting waste from toilets. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| sewer | an underground pipe or passage that carries sewage (=human waste). **noun [count]** |  |  |
| sludge | an unpleasant thick wet substance. Sludge is produced when dung is made into biogas (=fuel) and can be used to fertilize crops. **noun [uncount]** | *Sludge is an excellent fertilizer because it is rich in substances that promote plant growth.* |  |
| sore | a small painful area of skin that is injured or infected. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| spermicide | a cream that kills sperm, used during sex to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| stagnant | stagnant water does not flow and often smells bad. **adjective** | *Mosquito larvae live in stagnant water.* |  |
| starvation | a situation in which people or animals suffer or die because they do not have enough food. **noun [uncount]** | *Many children died of starvation during the famine.* |  |
| STD | sexually transmitted disease: a disease that someone gets from having sex with an infected person. | *Wearing a condom can reduce the risk of spreading STDs.* |  |
| sterile | **1** completely clean, with no bacteria. **adjective**  **2** not able to produce children. **adjective** | *Make sure that the needles are sterile.*  *Some common illnesses can make you sterile.* |  |
| syphilis | a serious disease caused by a bacterium that is passed on through sexual contact. **noun [uncount]** | *The STD syphilis can be treated with antibiotics.* |  |
| tapeworm | a long flat worm that can live inside the intestines of humans and other vertebrate animals and cause illness. The larva of the tapeworm usually gets into the human body from meat or fish that has not been completely cooked. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| thallium | a chemical element in the form of a silver-white metal. Its symbol is TI. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| the pill | a contraceptive pill that can be taken regularly by women to reduce the chance of becoming pregnant. **noun [count]** | *She was taking the pill because she didn’t want any more children.* |  |
| tick | a small arachnid (=creature similar to a spider) that fastens itself onto the skin of a mammal and feeds on its blood. Ticks live on animals such as dogs and cats and can spread some diseases to humans. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| transfusion | a medical treatment in which blood from one person is put into another person’s body, especially because the patient has lost a lot of blood from an injury or during a medical operation. **noun [count/uncount]** | *She needed a blood transfusion.* |  |
| tubal ligation | a surgical procedure that is done so that a woman cannot have any more children. It involves burning the fallopian tubes or oviducts so that the eggs cannot pass down them to be fertilized. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| unprotected sex | if people have unprotected sex, they do not use any form of contraception. This can result in pregnancy or the transmission of STDs. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| unreliable | someone or something that is unreliable cannot be depended on. **adjective** | *Withdrawal is an unreliable method of contraception.* |  |
| vaccination | treating a person or animal with a vaccine in order to protect them against a disease. **noun [count]** | *A worldwide vaccination programme helped to wipe out small pox.* |  |
| vaccine | a dead or weak microorganism that is put into the body in order to provide protection against a disease by causing it to make antibodies. **noun [count/uncount]** | The nurse administered a vaccine against German measles to all the schoolgirls |  |
| vasectomy | a medical operation in which the tube that a man’s sperm passes through is cut. This makes him unable to have children. (plural: vasectomies) **noun [count]** | *He had a vasectomy because he didn’t want to father any more children.* |  |
| vector for disease | an insect or other small organism that carries diseases between larger animals, including humans, but is not itself harmed by the disease. Mosquitoes and ticks are vectors. **noun [count]** | *STDs used to be referred to as venereal disease (VD).* |  |
| venereal disease | a disease that is spread when people have sex. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| vomit | if you vomit, or if you vomit something, food comes up from your stomach and out through your mouth because you are ill. **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *Symptoms of the disease include vomiting and diarrhoea.* |  |
| yellow fever | a serious tropical illness caused by a virus and spread by a mosquito. It causes fever, bleeding, and the skin to turn yellow. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |