

On the Job English

English for **MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

●
Practical English
Communication Skills for
General Medical Professionals



MP3

CARROT HOUSE

01

Taking a History of Present Illness

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

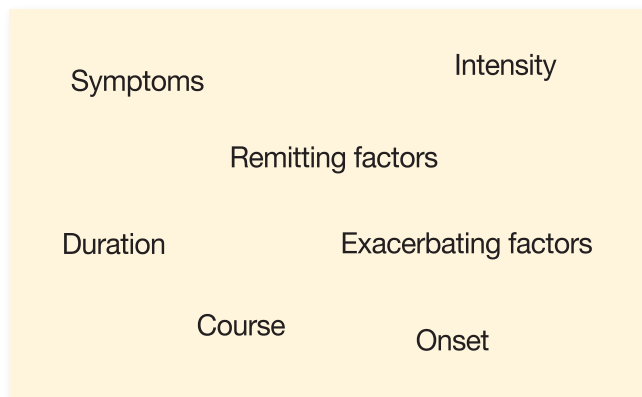
- Ask a patient about their present complaint.
- Ask a patient about their pain.

WARM UP

1 Please discuss the following questions:

- What are some symptoms of gastritis?
- What are some symptoms of headaches?

2 Match the correct word to each mnemonic and fill in the blanks.



Mnemonics for HPI : “CODIERS”

C _____
O _____
D _____
I _____
E _____
R _____
S _____

3 How would you collect information from your patient when taking an HPI? Match each question with the corresponding term.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Chief complaint | • | a. What lessens the pain? |
| Course | • | b. How long have you been experiencing this pain? |
| Onset | • | c. When did the pain begin? |
| Duration | • | d. Is the pain getting better, worse, or has it stayed the same? |
| Intensity | • | e. What is your medical concern or problem? |
| Exacerbating factors | • | f. What is the pain like? |
| Remitting factors | • | g. What makes the pain worse? |
| Symptoms | • | h. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the worst, how bad is the pain? |

EXPRESSIONS

- 1 You have a 32-year-old female patient with chest pain. Read the questions asked by the doctor and match them with the appropriate response.

Doctor says...

1. What brings you in today?
2. Have you taken any medications?
3. When did the pain first start?
4. Are there any other symptoms associated with your chest pain?
5. How would you describe the pain in your chest?
6. Have you experienced similar chest pain before?
7. Can you point to the area of your chest where it hurts?
8. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being the worst, how bad is the pain?

a _____

Patient says...

- a. I have a pain in my chest.
- b. Last night. I was relaxing at home and it just started.
- c. I haven't ever felt this sort of pain before.
- d. I feel pressure on my chest and I feel like I am about to pass out.
- e. It was a 9 but right now it is about a 7.
- f. It started around my breastbone, and then it spread to both sides of my chest, but mostly to the left side.
- g. I took nitroglycerine, but it didn't do anything.
- h. Any other problems? Well, I'm also having difficulty breathing.

- 2 Complete the dialogue below with the expressions from the box.

- make them worse
- How long have ... been going on
- spread to
- Have you tried
- On a scale of 1 to 10
- brings ... in
- describe the pain

Doctor What 1 _____ you _____ today?

Patient Well, doctor, lately I have had really horrible headaches.

Doctor 2 _____ your headaches _____?

Patient I get headaches occasionally, but for the last couple of months they have been really bad.

Doctor Could you 3 _____?

Patient Yes, it is a throbbing pain on the right side of my head.

Doctor 4 _____ with 10 being the worst, how bad are they?

Patient It ranges between an 8 and a 10. They even wake me up at night.

Doctor Does anything 5 _____?

Patient I like to take spinning classes, but lately they have been increasing the pain.

Doctor I see. 6 _____ any medications?

Patient I've taken Tylenol, but it hasn't helped.

Doctor Do your headaches 7 _____ the left side of your head?

Patient No, I don't think so. The pain stays on the right side.



VOCABULARY

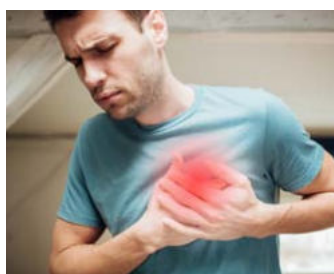
1 Please review the terms below. Draw lines to match each word to the correct definition.

1 How would patients describe abdominal pain?



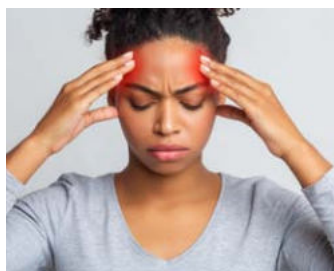
- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| sharp | • | a. a feeling as if a part of the body is hot |
| burning | • | b. a harsher pain which is generally more localized in a specific place |
| nagging | • | c. a pain that continues for a long time and is difficult to decrease or stop |

2 How would patients describe chest pain?



- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| pressure-like | • | a. a feeling of something weighing down on you |
| stabbing | • | b. a pain or discomfort when an affected area is touched |
| tender to touch | • | c. a feeling like a pointed object is stabbing the chest; can also be described as piercing |

3 How would patients describe a headache?

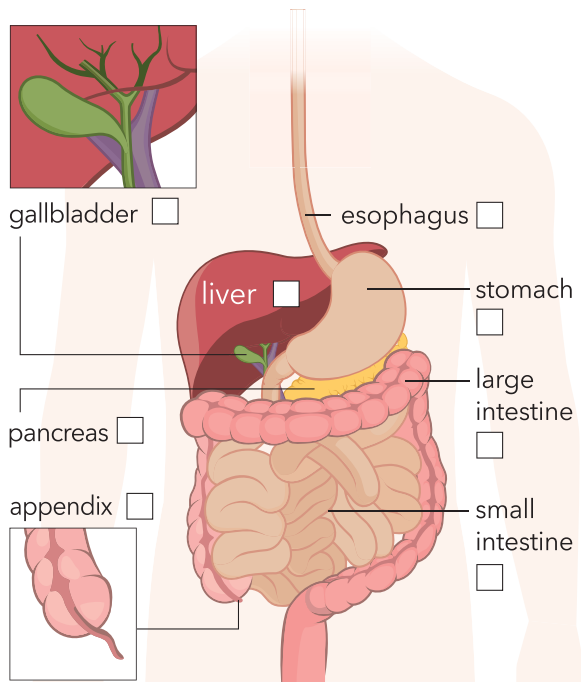


- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| throbbing | • | a. used to describe chronic or persistent pain, a deep ache felt in an area |
| squeezing | • | b. a feeling as if a band is tightening around the head |
| dull | • | c. a series of regular, painful movements |

2 Read the sentences below and complete them with words from 1.

- 1 I've got a _____ pain in my abdomen. It's been there for a long time and it won't go away.
- 2 I have a chest pain that feels _____. It feels like an elephant is sitting on my chest.
- 3 I have a _____ headache. I feel a pounding and somewhat rhythmic pain.

3 Match the organs with the definitions (A-H).



- A. the muscular tube that carries food and liquids from the mouth to the stomach
- B. the organ that plays an essential role in converting the food we eat into fuel for the body's cells
- C. the organ that makes bile which helps carry away waste and break down fats in the small intestine during digestion
- D. the organ that starts the digestive process when food arrives here
- E. the organ that holds the digestive fluid called bile
- F. also called the colon; part of the final stages of digestion
- G. the organ that helps to further digest food coming from the stomach and absorbs most of the nutrients from what we eat and drink
- H. the organ which is located in the right lower abdomen; the removal of this organ causes no observable health problems

REVIEW

Review the patient's complaint and complete the medical chart.

I have pain in the right side of my belly. It feels like something is stabbing me. I've never had this kind of pain before. It has lasted for about a week now.



Patient Name:
Jane M. Klein, 41-yr-old, F

Chief complaint:

History of present illness:

Past medical history:

⋮