

Vocabulary Practice 25: Specialized Vocabulary

A basic understanding of health terms helps you read a newspaper, interpret medical articles, and understand medical issues that are discussed and debated.

A. Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Use a dictionary as necessary.

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|--------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| amnesia | antidote | cardiac | communicable |
| contagious | dehydration | epidemic | hygiene |
| immunization | inoculation | insomnia | medication |
| quarantine | sedative | sterile | ulcer |

1. A doctor will quarantine someone if they want that person to have no visitors.
2. A cardiac problem is a problem that involves the heart.
3. To calm someone, a doctor might prescribe a sedative.
4. An operating room must be sterile so that germs do not infect the wound.
5. Scurvy is caused by diet, so it is not communicable or immunization.
6. Spicy foods will cause pain when you have an ulcer in your mouth, throat, or stomach.
7. Your doctor can give you a medication that will help you breathe more easily.
8. The quickest treatment for mild dehydration is several glasses of water.
9. In case of accidental poisoning, look on the label to learn the antidote.
10. People who cannot sleep have insomnia.
11. Once, the standard inoculation for smallpox was cowpox, a milder disease.
12. The common cold is a highly contagious disease.
13. Good hygiene includes washing your hands before eating.
14. Your immunization record has been updated to show your last two booster shots.
15. My whole family got sick during the flu epidemic last winter.
16. The woman cannot remember the accident, because she has amnesia.

B. Each question contains at least one vocabulary word. Answer each question by writing yes or no on the line.

1. If you had insomnia, would a sedative be likely to help? Yes
2. Does good hygiene help prevent the spread of contagious illnesses? Yes
3. Is amnesia an antidote for cardiac problems? No
4. Might a doctor quarantine someone who had a communicable disease? Yes
5. Is an ulcer a type of medication? No

quarantine - a period of time when an animal or person that has or may have a disease is kept away from others from spreading.