

## 2. Describing Ailments and Symptoms

**Materials Needed** Board or chart paper  
Markers  
Pictures of ailments/symptoms: headache, sore throat, fever, stomach ache, backache, cold  
OTC meds: actual samples (e.g., aspirin, tea, cough syrup, ibuprofen, acetaminophen (*Tylenol*), lozenges)  
Pictures showing other possible answers, such as rest, drink tea, call the doctor.  
Audio CD (“What’s the matter?”)  
Handouts: 2a (What’s the matter?), 2b (What do you do for...?), 2c (Symptoms – *Repeat from previous session*)

**Warmup/Review** If you didn’t play “Hangman” at the end of the last class, you can play it now. OR, play Simon Says or a short review of the TPR game from Session 1.  
OR, divide the class into groups of 4–6 learners. Give each group one marker and a large sheet of chart paper. Ask the learners to draw a body and label as many parts as they can in 5 minutes, without using dictionaries or notes. At the end of the time period, the group with the most body parts correctly labeled is the winner.

**Check homework** Ask learners to check the answers to the crossword puzzle with a partner or groups of four.



### Activity 1 Listening

1. Hand out worksheet 2a, “What’s the matter?” Ask students to check the ailments they hear in the recorded dialogues [on CD]. (OR, using *Standout BASIC*, listen to the activity, and fill in the answers on page 106.) Play each item two times.
2. Check answers as a class.

### Activity 2 Treatments

1. Show pictures or actual bottles of common over-the-counter medicines (cough syrup, *Tylenol*, ibuprofen (*Advil*), antacid, Benadryl, aspirin). Ask the learners to name each item. Write the names on the board.
2. Show the picture of one of the ailments/treatments. Ask the learners, “What can we do for...” (e.g., a headache)? Elicit answers (e.g., rest, take aspirin, take *Tylenol*, etc.) and write on the board. Cover such solutions as: call the doctor, drink hot tea, rest in bed, exercise (for back ache), as well as common over-the-counter remedies: aspirin, *Tylenol*, *Tums* (antacid), cough syrup, ibuprofen (*Advil*).
3. Give each learner the handout, “What do you do for...?” (*see below*). Ask them for their own solution to each ailment.
4. When learners have completed their own answers, ask them to speak with three other classmates. If possible, they should interview classmates from other cultures or countries.

**Activity 3**  
**Making**  
**Recommendations with**  
**“Should”**

1. Introduce three additional vocabulary words: “rash,” “bleeding,” and “vomiting.”
2. Give a card (handout 2c) with a sentence (or a picture showing coughing, fever, cold, bleeding, stomach ache, rash, vomiting, bleeding). The learner shows the picture and says, “I have...” (headache, rash, fever, etc.).
3. Give suggestions about what to do, using “should.” (Note: For lowest-level learners, you may want to use “need to” instead of “should.”)

**Assessment** Administer quiz on body parts and symptoms. Check as a class.

**Additional Activities**

If you have access to a computer, learners can do the Word Search puzzle at: <http://literacynet.org/vtd/puzzle1.html> about parts of the body, and <http://literacynet.org/vtd/puzzle2.html> about symptoms.

OR, play the Matching Game at [www.quia.com/mc/301374.html](http://www.quia.com/mc/301374.html).

# What's the matter?

Listen to the conversations. Check ✓ the problems you hear.

## Answer key

	headache	Sore throat	Cold	Fever	Backache	Cough
#1			✓			
#2		✓		✓		
#3				✓		✓
#4	✓		✓			
#5					✓	

### Dialogues for Worksheet 3a, "What's the matter?" (recorded)

#### Dialogue 1

Hi, this is Sally Chen calling. I'm afraid I won't be able to come to work today. I have a terrible cold.

#### Dialogue 2

Hello, this is Rick Jones calling. I need to cancel my appointment. I have a fever and a sore throat.

#### Dialogue 3

Mrs. Greene? This is Arturo Ramirez. My son Carlos has a fever and a cough, so he can't come to school today.

#### Dialogue 4

I heard that Lisa is sick — she has a cold.  
Does she have a fever?  
No, but she does have a bad headache.  
Oh, that's too bad.

#### Dialogue 5

You don't look so good — what's wrong?  
I have a terrible backache.  
Then let me help you with those packages.  
Thanks.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

What do you do for ...

**Example:**

*A: What do you do for fever?*

*B: I call the doctor.*

	You	Classmate 1	Classmate 2	Classmate 3
Headache				
Backache				
Sore throat				
Fever				
Cold				
Cough				

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Her arm hurts.

True

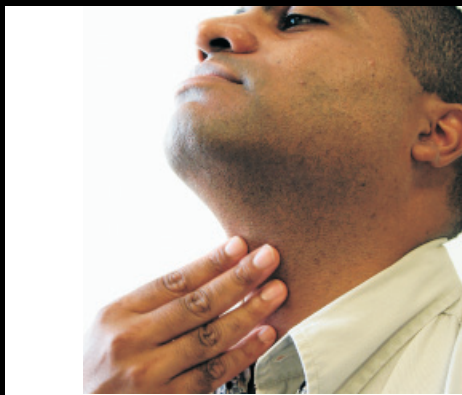
Not true



She has a backache.

True

Not true



He has a stomach ache.

True

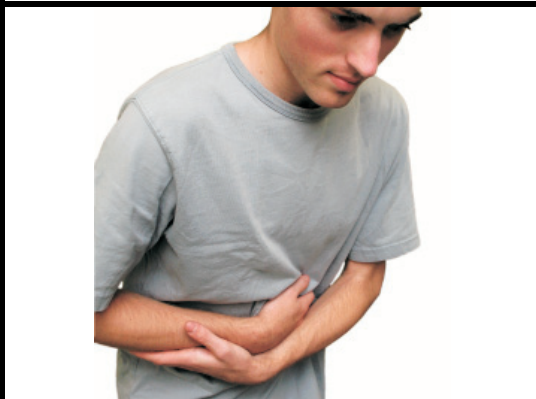
Not true



His knee hurts.

True

Not true



He has a sore throat.

True

Not true



Her hand hurts.

True

Not true

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Her arm hurts.

True  Not true



She has a backache.

True  Not true



He has a stomach ache.

True  Not true



His knee hurts.

True  Not true



He has a sore throat.

True  Not true



Her hand hurts.

True  Not true