

8A Doctor's orders

1 VOCABULARY health and medicine

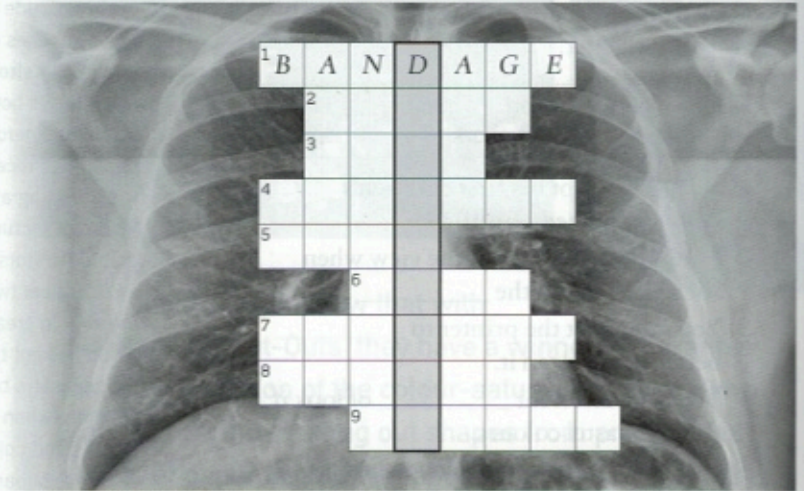
a Complete the puzzle to discover the hidden word.

- 1 A strip of cloth used for tying around the injured part of a person's body to protect or support it.
- 2 Become unconscious when not enough blood is going to your brain.
- 3 A special photograph that shows bones or organs in the body.
- 4 A doctor who is trained to perform operations.
- 5 A medical test in which a picture of the inside of a person's body is sent to a computer screen.
- 6 A common illness affecting the nose and throat that makes you cough and sneeze.
- 7 A piece of material that can be stuck to the skin to protect a wound or a small cut.
- 8 A purple mark that appears on the skin if you fall or are hit by something.
- 9 A medical condition of the chest that makes breathing difficult.

Hidden word: _____

b Complete the words.

- 1 Peter's GP sent him to a heart **specialist** to find out what was causing the pain in his chest.
- 2 I didn't dry my hands before unplugging my phone charger, so I got an **e** _____ **sh** _____.
- 3 I got a **bl** _____ on my little toe when I wore my new trainers.
- 4 My girlfriend hasn't had seafood since she had an **a** _____ **r** _____ after eating some prawns on holiday one time.
- 5 I thought I had a cold, but when I got a temperature, I realized it must be **fl** _____.
- 6 The doctor prescribed **a** _____ to clear up my throat infection.
- 7 Matt had eight **st** _____ in his eyebrow when he cut it playing rugby.
- 8 My grandfather was told to take it easy after he had his first **h** _____ **a** _____.
- 9 My son must be allergic to eggs because he comes out in a **r** _____ every time he eats them.
- 10 Alex is in bed with a nasty bout of **f** _____ **p** _____ after eating some mayonnaise that was off.



2 LEXIS IN CONTEXT

What doctors won't do...

Look at the Lexis in Context on Student's Book p.74. Then complete the sentences.

- 1 When it comes to living longer, not everyone would agree that the advantages outweigh the **disadvantages**.
- 2 My reluctance to use Botox has **n** _____ to do with the cost; it's the fact that it's a highly poisonous substance that worries me.
- 3 People underestimate the **r** _____ of self-medicating; you could be taking some tablets with harmful side-effects while the real problem is getting worse.
- 4 It makes a doctor's **h** _____ sink when whole families make one appointment during which they all expect to be seen.
- 5 Don't take my **w** _____ for it – read this article. It says that honey and lemon is the best cure for a cough.



7 READING

- a Read the article once. Which phrase do you think is missing from the title?
- 1 If all else fails, try homeopathy
 - 2 Homeopathy kills
 - 3 Steer clear of homeopathy

say scientists

Homeopathy, the alternative therapy created in 1796 by Samuel Hahnemann, and now widely used all over the world, is based on the belief that the body can be stimulated to heal itself. A central principle of the 'treatment' is that 'like cures like' – in other words, a substance that causes certain symptoms can also help to remove those symptoms. Medicines used in homeopathy are created by heavily diluting in water the substance in question and subsequently shaking the liquid vigorously. They can then be made into tablets and pills. Practitioners believe that the more a substance is diluted in this way, the greater its power to treat symptoms.

However, in a new study, a working committee of medical experts at Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has claimed that homeopathic medicines are only as effective as placebos at treating illnesses. Their research, involving the analysis of numerous reports from homeopathy interest groups and the public, concluded that there is no reliable evidence that homeopathy works. Moreover, researchers uncovered no fewer than 68 ailments that homeopathic remedies had failed to treat, including asthma, sleep disturbances, colds and flu, burns, and arthritis.

As a result of the findings, the NHMRC is urging health workers to inform their patients to be wary of anecdotal evidence that appears to support the effectiveness of homeopathic medicine. 'It is not possible to tell whether a health treatment is effective or not simply by considering the experience of one individual or the beliefs of a health practitioner,' says the report. Experts believe that most illnesses said to have been cured by homeopathy would be cured by the body on its own without taking the medicine. Apparently, many illnesses are short-lived by their very nature which often leads to people believing that it is the homeopathy that cures them.

A more serious matter is highlighted by Professor John Dwyer of the University of New South Wales. As an immunologist, he is concerned about the homeopathic vaccinations on offer for diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, none of which he considers effective. According to Professor Dwyer, the concept that homeopathic vaccinations are just as good as traditional vaccinations is a delusion, and those who believe it are failing to protect themselves and their children.



- b Read the article again and choose the best answers.

- 1 According to the article, homeopathic medicines are...
 - a prepared in the same way
 - b made up of many ingredients
 - c suitable for a wide range of symptoms
 - d available only in liquid form
- 2 The Australian study reveals that homeopathy is...
 - a extremely popular with the public
 - b helpful in the case of respiratory infections
 - c ineffective in treating many illnesses
 - d only of interest to certain groups of people
- 3 People tend to believe in homeopathy because of...
 - a adverts displayed in health centres
 - b positive feedback from a small number of people
 - c advice they get from the medical profession
 - d the results of research into alternative therapies
- 4 In Professor John Dwyer's view, homeopathic vaccinations are...
 - a not worth bothering with
 - b often harmful
 - c ridiculously expensive
 - d better than nothing

- c Look at the highlighted words and phrases connected with health and medicine and try to work out what they mean. Check in your dictionary.

8 LISTENING

- a **iChecker** Listen to a radio programme about American teenager, Ashlyn Blocker. What are the symptoms of her medical condition and what is its cause?
- b Listen again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).
- 1 Ashlyn's condition isn't life-threatening.
 - 2 She sometimes hurts herself when she is making a meal.
 - 3 When she was born, her behaviour wasn't normal.
 - 4 Doctors diagnosed her condition when she was around two years old.
 - 5 The staff at her school weren't very co-operative.
 - 6 When she was a child, her parents managed to prevent her from hurting herself.
 - 7 Publicity has helped her cause immensely.
 - 8 Her condition has been caused by an alteration in more than one of her genes.
- c Listen again with the audio script on p.74 and try to guess the meaning of any words that you don't know. Then check in your dictionary.