



Health and Doctor Words in Other Languages

KS3

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 11-14



3 min read

Why Learn Health Vocabulary?

Imagine you're on holiday abroad and you feel poorly. You need to explain what's wrong to someone who speaks a different language. Knowing **health and illness words** is one of the most practical skills you can learn in a foreign language class. Whether you're travelling, studying overseas, or chatting with international friends, these words could genuinely help you.

Learning medical vocabulary also helps you understand how different cultures think about health and staying well.

Common Illness Words

Let's start with words you might need to describe how you feel. In most languages, you'd say something like "I have a headache" or "I feel sick." Key words include: **headache, stomachache, fever, cough, sore throat, cold, flu, and tired.**

Think of it like a menu at a restaurant — you're ordering help by pointing out which symptom you have.

You'll also want to say "I feel ill" or "I'm not well." Different languages have different ways of saying this, but they all work the same way: you describe your body part plus the problem.

The Doctor's Surgery and Hospital

When you need medical help, you need words for places and people. A **doctor** (or physician) works at a **surgery** or **clinic**. A **nurse** helps care for patients. A **hospital** is for serious cases. **Medicine** or **medication** is what the doctor gives you to feel better. You might also hear about **prescription** — a note from the doctor telling you which medicine to take.

Useful Phrases and Questions

You'll need to ask for help properly. Phrases like "Can I see a doctor?" "What's wrong with me?" and "Do I need medicine?" are essential. You should know how to say **appointment** (booking a time to see the doctor) and **emergency** (when something is very urgent).

Think of it like learning the rules of a game — once you know the key phrases, you can have a real conversation and get the help you need.

Body Parts You Should Know

Finally, knowing basic **body parts** really helps. You need words for: **head, arm, leg, heart, lungs, stomach, back, and teeth**. This way, you can point to or describe exactly where it hurts.

Learning these words takes practice, but it's time well spent. You're learning real vocabulary that could help you or someone else stay safe and healthy anywhere in the world.