

Hospital

by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Upper-intermediate

Time needed: 1 hour

Warm up

Ask students to write down four words they think of when they hear the word *hospital*. When they have finished, tell them to turn to a partner and read their words out, explaining why they chose each word. Finally, do some whole-class feedback.

Stage one

① Distribute the worksheets and direct students to exercise 1. Tell them to read through the texts quickly and decide what kind of text they are.

Answers: Text A is a review of a book about health care. Text B is an anecdote about a visit to the hospital.

② Now tell the students to read the texts again more carefully and answer exercise 2.

Answers: B is about a birth; A has an unhappy message; B is more specific; B is about an interview; A is more personal; B is about people who don't have money to pay for hospitals.

③ Finally, ask students to work in pairs and do exercises 3, 4 and 5.

Answers: places: hospital, emergency, maternity ward; people: doctor, physician, nurses; verbs: treated, admitted, examined, deliver; other: health insurance, health policy official, illness, medical condition, health care, sickness, ambulance.

Note: It is worthwhile pointing out the hospital-related verb-noun collocations in the text (*treat an illness, admit to hospital, deliver a baby*).

Stage two

① Tell students to be either A or B in their pairs. They should interview each other using the questions on the worksheet. Circulate and listen out for any mistakes. When students finish, go over any examples of incorrect language you picked up with the whole group.

② Then put students into new pairs and ask them to repeat the discussion (they can swap roles).

Stage three

Read, or have a student read, the discussion point at the bottom of the page. You could ask the students to discuss the questions in pairs, or open this up to a whole-class discussion.

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Reading

1. Read the two texts about hospitals. What kind of texts are they? Choose from the list below.

- a review of a documentary film about hospitals
- an anecdote about a visit to the hospital
- a review of a book about health care
- a story about a bad doctor



TEXT A

In 2004 Susan Sered, an anthropologist, and Rushika Fernandopulle, a doctor, interviewed more than 120 Americans without health insurance as well as physicians, administrators, and health-policy officials. The result is a collection of stories called *Uninsured in America*. The authors describe the difficulties of people who lack insurance for many reasons—including self-employment and divorce—and whose illnesses cannot be adequately treated. As their medical conditions deteriorate, the costs of their health care and the consequences increase. The authors call this the “death spiral”. Once individuals are caught in the death spiral, it is very difficult to find a way out. This is an issue of concern to all Americans, because these cases lead to higher health-care and more sickness everywhere. This is a must-read.

TEXT B

We arrived at the hospital in a taxi. I wanted to call an ambulance but my wife said no, it would take too long. It was eight o’clock in the evening, but everything was quiet. We went to emergency. My wife was admitted straight away. Since it was her second pregnancy, we both knew what to expect. She was quite cheerful as the nurses took us to the maternity ward. Her doctor arrived, and he examined her. He said that she had at least another three hours left and that he was going to dinner. Of course you can guess what happened next, the baby arrived twenty minutes later. The nurses were there, and I helped deliver the baby. It was a beautiful baby girl. We were both very happy.

2. Read the texts again and answer the questions. Which text...

- ...is about a birth?
- ...has an unhappy message?
- ...is more specific?
- ...is about an interview?
- ...is more personal?
- ...is about people who don’t have money to pay for hospitals?

3. Work in pairs. Choose one of the texts. Turn the paper over and tell your partner as much as you can remember about it.

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Vocabulary

4. Underline all the words in the texts that relate to hospitals or health care.

5. Divide the words in 4 into the following categories.

places	people	verbs	other

Speaking

6. Work in pairs, A and B. Ask each other your questions.

When was the last time you were in a hospital?

- A** Were you there as a patient or were you visiting someone?
 Have you ever had an operation? Have you ever been in an ambulance?
 Do you know anyone who works in a hospital? What do they do?

Where is the nearest hospital to your house? Is it a good hospital?

- B** Are there private hospitals in your country? Are they expensive?
 Is there health insurance in your country?
 Does everyone have access to health care?

Discussion

Hospitals are very popular places for American television shows. Here are some popular shows that are set in American hospitals.

GREY'S ANATOMY

[scrubs]

H OUSE

M*A*S*H

ER

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Do you know these shows? Are there similar shows in your country? Do you think these shows represent what it's really like in a hospital?