

Reading Lesson

B2 Science: What are the Chances?

Summary: The article discusses different types of clinical research studies that rely on volunteers as well as the positive and negative aspects of getting involved in such programs.

Time: Approximately 45 minutes.

Skills: Reading, Writing / Speaking

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One worksheet per student

Reading

Have students read the text and underline the rewards and risks of participating in clinical trials.

Key:

Rewards: receive money to take part in the trial, help other people with particular health conditions, receive a new treatment that is only available through this method, have access to highly qualified medical professionals

Risks: serious side effects from medications, little or no effect of the treatments, receiving a placebo instead of the medication, having to visit hospitals or clinics frequently, anxiety and stress because of the process

Vocabulary

Key:

1. b 2. e 3. a 4. c 5. d

Comprehension

Key:

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. b

Thinking

Have students respond to the question in small-group discussion or in writing. Have them share their ideas with the class. Ask them if they would be interested in taking part in such trials. Why, why not?

Extension

Ask students to discuss what the alternative would be to having clinical trials with volunteers and whether these alternative methods are better or worse than clinical trials.