

Case history

Pre-task:

Make a list of all illnesses and treatments you ever had in your life. Look up their names in a medical dictionary, e.g. [Merriam Webster](https://www.merriam-webster.com/), and collate the definitions.



Image 1

Task 1:

Take on the role of the doctor or patient. The patient describes current symptoms and answers the doctor's questions. The doctor takes the patient's case history.

Patient	Doctor
I have pain in ...	What can I help you with?
I am feeling tired/sick/low.	How long have you had these pains/cramps/this fever?
I have a cough/fever/cramp.	Have you had this before?
I have always been healthy.	How is your health otherwise?
I am taking ... (name of pill/medicine)	Do you take any medication?
I have an implant/artificial ...	Do you smoke?
My hearing/sight/... is impaired.	Are you allergic?
As a child, I frequently suffered with ...	Have you been vaccinated against ...?
When I was ... years old, I had an operation on my ...	When was your last top-up vaccination/flu jab?
My most recent stay in hospital was ... years ago.	Have you ever been admitted to hospital before? Why?
I am now fully recovered.	Have you ever had an operation?
There is no history of... (name of illness) in my	Does anyone else in your family suffer from the same condition?

family. My mother suffers from ... My father has suffered from ..., since he was ... My sister is diabetic.	Are there any hereditary diseases in your family?
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Task 2:

Watch an episode from a popular doctor/hospital TV series and take notes how the doctors take the history of their patients. Also note down surprise events. Then discuss: could they have done better?

Examples of TV series:

Germany: ARD/Das Erste: In aller Freundschaft; In aller Freundschaft – die jungen Ärzte

ZDF: Bettys Diagnose

United Kingdom: BBC: Doctors; Casualty

Sources

Image 1 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/59632563@N04/6104068209>

Link 1 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tonsillitis#medicalDictionary>