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Healthcare Vocabulary

Prescription /prɪs'krɪpʃən/ (N) - The paper on which a doctor writes the recommended medicine that someone needs.

Example: Some drugs are only available on prescription and can't be bought at the pharmacy.

Immunization /ɪ,mju(:)nə'zeɪʃən/ (N) - The program of preventing the spread of an infectious disease.

Example: A program of immunization stopped the spread of the virus before it got out of control.

Vaccine /'væksɪ:n/ (N) - A drug that protects the body against disease.

Example: The government now offers a free flu vaccine every winter.

Surgery /'sɜ:dʒəri/ (N) - The practice of cutting open the body to repair or remove damaged body parts.

Example: Last year, I had surgery to remove my appendix after it became inflamed.

Psychotherapy /,saɪkəʊ'θerəpi/ (N) - Treatment of mental illness without the use of drugs.

Example: She found her psychotherapy sessions very helpful. Her therapist was understanding and patient.

Therapist /'θerəpɪst/ (N) - A qualified professional who treats mental or physical conditions.

Example: I was recommended to see a therapist to control my anger.

Physiotherapy /,fɪziə'θerəpi/ (N) - Treatment of muscles, joints and nerves.

Example: The athlete had to undergo physiotherapy after he broke his leg.

Antibiotics /,æntɪbɑ:'rɒtɪks/ (N) - A medicine that cures bacteria in the body.

Example: I was prescribed antibiotics for a stomach infection.

Sickly /'sɪkli/ (Adj) - Describes someone who easily gets ill.

Example: My youngest child was sickly when he was a baby. He was always getting infections.

Immune system /ɪ'mju:n 'sɪstɪm/ (N) - Tissue and organs in the body that protect it against infection and disease.

Example: She always had a weak immune system and easily got ill.

Healthcare: Idioms

An apple a day keeps the doctor away -

Eating an apple every day will keep you healthy.

Example: My grandmother always told us that eating an apple a day keeps the doctor away.



Sick as a dog - To feel very ill/sick.

Example: After catching the flu, I was sick as a dog for days with a high fever and sore throat.



In the pink - To feel fit and healthy.

Example: Since he stopped smoking, he claims to be in the pink although he does have the occasional cigar.



One foot in the grave - To be very old or ill and not have long to live.

Example: He has one foot in the grave. He's been diagnosed with a terminal illness.



A taste of their own medicine - To treat someone the same way they treat you.

Example: He was always rude to the staff, so he got a taste of his own medicine when nobody came to his leaving party.



Basket case - Someone who is incredibly nervous and can't organize their life.

Example: During the course, he was a real basket case. He couldn't focus on anything because of the pressure he was feeling.