

Teaching Health Words: Vocabulary, Reading, and Conversation

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Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Select health topics that align with learner goals.
- Use at least three simple activities to build health vocabulary and comprehension.
- Adapt an existing lesson to include a health-focused reading or conversation.

Warm up Question

List 5-10 health words your students already use or recognize

- Examples: fever, cough, insurance, appointment

Choosing Health Topics

- Appointments & check-ins
- Symptoms & body parts
- Medicine labels & directions
- Everyday health: sleep, food, exercise, stress

Simple Strategies for Health Vocabulary

- Matching (word–picture–definition)
- Sorting (symptoms vs. treatments vs. places)
- Dialogues & role plays
- Cloze (fill-in-the-blank) reading
- Short partner interviews (“When did you last...?”)

Activity: Word Sort

Instructions:

- Sort the words into 3 groups:
 1. Symptoms
 2. People/places
 3. Medicines/tools

Activity: Short Dialogue

Tasks:

- Practice the dialogue with a partner.
- Change one detail (time, symptom, day) and practice again.
- Ask: “What questions could the patient also ask?”

Activity: Mini Reading

Tasks:

- Underline the hours.
- Circle the phone number.
- Highlight what you need to bring.
- Create 3 simple questions (When? What? Where?) to ask another learner.

Mini Activity Design

Template

Title: “My Health Literacy Mini-Activity”

- Level: (e.g., Beginner ESL, ABE, etc.)
- Health topic:
- Skill focus: vocabulary / reading / speaking / writing
- Materials:
- Steps (1–4):

Wrap Up

- Which activity are you most likely to try?
- What health topic are your learners asking about right now?

Questions and Contact Information



- Session Survey Link:
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