

Instructor Page

NOTE: These worksheets feature labels from over-the-counter medications. Each worksheet is followed by comprehension questions. Provide assistance in reading the comprehension questions, but not in choosing the answers. *It is expected that students will find the reading very challenging and may not be able to answer many of the questions correctly.* These activities are meant to demonstrate to students that they may have gaps in their understanding of medication labels. Once students have tested their ability to answer the questions on their own, instructors can model how they would answer them by doing a “think-aloud.”

Questions to Encourage “Consumer” Inquiry

The questions on this page should be used after students have attempted to answer the comprehension questions for each over-the-counter medication label. Emphasize with students how to get assistance in interpreting labels from the pharmacist or from their doctor’s office.

Allergy Medication

1. What is this medication used for?
2. According to this warning label, you should ask a doctor about using this medication if you have certain health conditions—which ones?
3. What side effect can children experience if they take this medication?
4. What is MAOI?
5. Who would you ask if you weren’t sure you understood everything on this warning label?

Ibuprofen Pain Reliever

1. What is this medication used for?
 2. Will this medication help if you have diarrhea? How about a stomachache?
 3. What side effects can this medicine cause?
 4. Are the side effects minor or serious?
 5. What questions could you ask the pharmacist if you weren’t sure you understood everything?
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Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels

Directions: Look at the medication container and the statements below. Your teacher will read the statements aloud. Put an X under True or False. Then discuss your answers with your class.

Allergy Medication

Do not use if you are taking a prescription monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) (certain drugs for depression, psychiatric or emotional conditions, or Parkinson's disease), or for 2 weeks after stopping the MAOI drug. If you do not know if your prescription drug contains MAOI, ask a doctor or pharmacist before taking this product

- with any other product containing acetaminophen.
- with any other product containing diphenhydramine, even one used on skin.

Ask a doctor before use if you have ● heart disease ● high blood pressure ● diabetes ● glaucoma ● a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

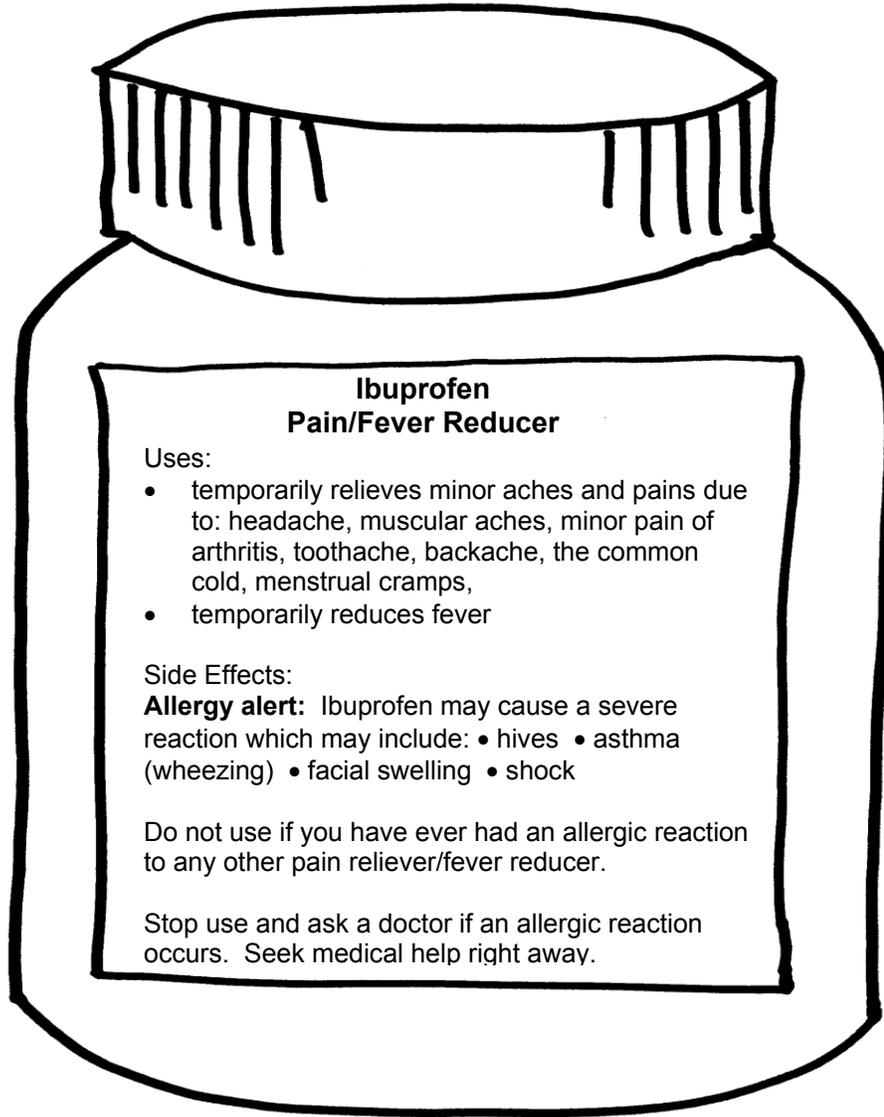
Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are taking sedatives or tranquilizers.

When using this product ● avoid alcoholic drinks ● marked drowsiness may occur ● excitability may occur, especially in children.

	True	False
1. If you are taking a medication that contains aspirin, you should ask your doctor before you use this medication.	_____	_____
2. This medication could make you very sleepy.	_____	_____
3. If you have high blood pressure, you should ask your doctor before you use this medication.	_____	_____
4. You shouldn't drink alcohol with this medication.	_____	_____

Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels

Directions: Look at the medication label and the questions below. Circle the best answers. Then discuss your answers with your class.



1. You can take this medication for:
 - a) cramps from a monthly period
 - b) allergies
 - c) stomachache
 2. One side effect of this medication is:
 - a) vomiting
 - b) breathing problems
 - c) headache
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Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels, continued

3. Which is not a side effect?
 - a) asthma
 - b) hives
 - c) stomachache

 4. Which is not a reason to take this medication?
 - a) arthritis
 - b) cough
 - c) backache

 5. On this label, what does “temporarily relieves” mean?
 - a) your temperature will go up
 - b) your pain will stop for 1 week
 - c) you will probably feel better for a short time

 6. Is the dosage for this medication 2 pills every 4-6 hours?
 - a) yes
 - b) no
 - c) don't know (not enough information)
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