

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.

Maximum Strength Cough Medicine

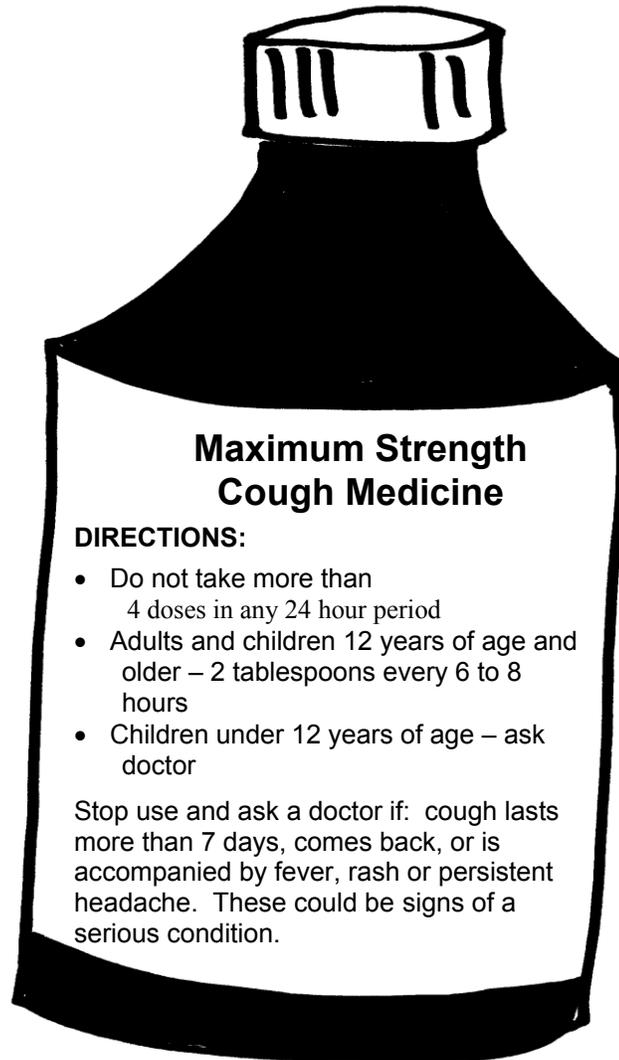
1. What is this medication used for?
2. How much is one dose? (2 tablespoons is the dose—discuss the difference between teaspoon and tablespoon)
3. Who can take this medication?
4. How often should the medicine be taken?
5. What should you do if you want to give this to a child under 12 years old?
6. Who can answer your questions if you don’t understand the dosage and directions?

Anti-Itch Cream

1. What is this cream used for?
 2. What does “apply to affected area” mean?
 3. What are the directions for using this medication on babies?
 4. Who can answer your questions if you don’t understand the dosage and directions?
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Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels

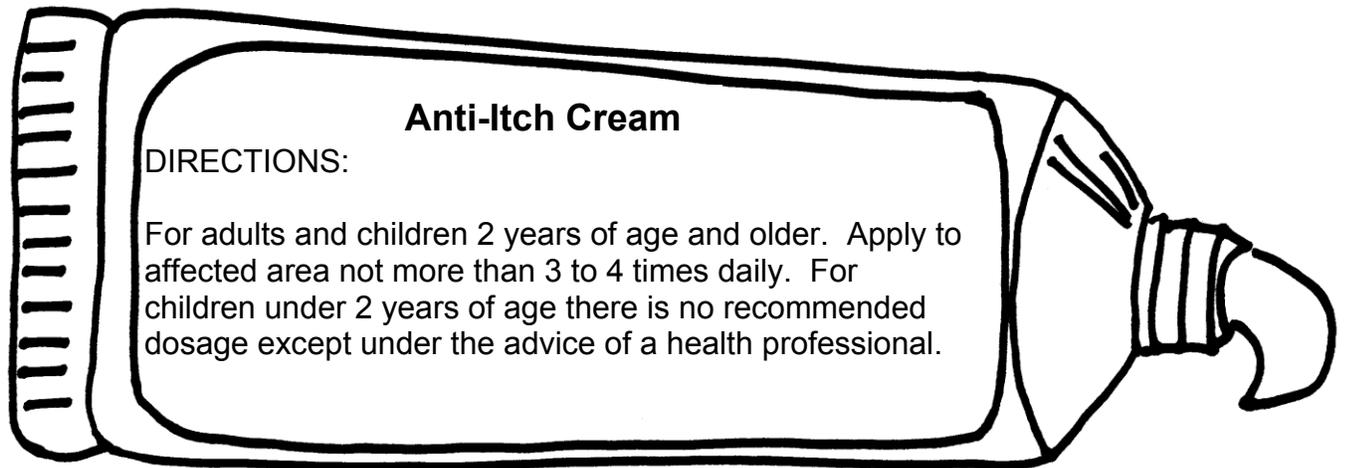
Directions: Look at the medication label and the statements below. Put an X under True or False. Then discuss your answers with your class.



- | | True | False |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. The dosage is 2 teaspoons every 4 hours. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. You can take 4 doses a day. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. The dosage for children under 12 is the same as for adults. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. Adults should take 2 tablespoons every 6 to 8 hours. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. You can't take this medication any longer than 8 days. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. A fever, rash or persistent headache could be a sign of a serious condition. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. If the cough comes back, you begin taking the medication again. | _____ | _____ |
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Reading Over-the-Counter Medication Labels

Directions: Look at the medication container and the questions below. Your teacher will read the questions and answers aloud. Circle the best answer, a, b or c. Then discuss your answers with your class.



Circle the best answer.

1. You cannot use this cream on:
 - a) Adults
 - b) Children age 2 and older
 - c) Babies

 2. How often should you put on this cream?
 - a) Put it on every 3-4 hours.
 - b) Put it on 3-4 times a day.
 - c) Put it on once every 3-4 days.

 3. How much cream can you use on a child younger than 2 years old?
 - a) You have to ask your doctor.
 - b) The same amount as on an adult.
 - c) Use as much as you need.
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