

Pre-Reading Discussion: Do you always understand everything a health professional tells you? What do you do when you don't understand?

Reading Passage Section 9: Talking To Health Professionals

To make good health decisions, you need to know how to talk with health professionals about your health needs.

Health professionals are not the only ones who can ask questions. *You* can also ask questions! If you don't ask questions, a health professional may think you understand everything that was said. You can write down your questions before your visit. List the most important questions first to make sure they get asked and answered. Let the health professional know if you need more time.

For example, you can ask:

- “Can you give me more information about my problem? Can you show me a picture?”
- “I don't want to be sick like this again. What can I do?”
- “What does this medication do?”
- “Can I have an **interpreter**? I don't speak English.”
- “How can I pay for my office visit?”



You may want to write down what the health professional tells you. You may want to take a friend with you to help you ask questions.