

HEALTH UNIT: SECTION 9
Talking to Health Professionals

CONVERSATION FOCUS

Directions: The purpose of this activity is to give students confidence asking for clarification or help if they need it. The instructor will role play the part of a health care provider who is giving information orally to a patient. Read the following scripts aloud at a normal, fluent pace.

Student Directions: If you don't understand everything a health care provider tells you, it is important to let them know. Listen to the information from the doctor. Then you will practice asking the doctor any question you may have.

Doctor:	Your blood test showed a somewhat elevated blood glucose level. However, to be certain, I want you to take some additional tests. Both tests require that you fast at least 12 hours before taking them. So, the night before the test, finish eating dinner before 7:00 p.m. and then come in at 9:00 a.m. for the test. Okay, do you have any questions?
Doctor:	The medicine you've been taking has not been having the effect we've wanted so I'm going to start you on an extended release tablet. Take one 5-milligram tablet in the morning with breakfast. After two months, we'll recheck your blood and see if we need to increase the dosage then. Do you have any questions?
Doctor:	I'd like to start you on a cholesterol-lowering drug. Unfortunately, diet and exercise alone are not enough for some patients to manage their high cholesterol, so we need to treat it with medicine as well. Any questions?
Doctor:	There are some side effects of this cholesterol-lowering medicine. Let me know if you experience muscle pain, tenderness or weakness. It will be the kind of pain you would feel if you were coming down with the flu. It might start gradually and you might hardly notice it. However, you need to tell me about this because it can develop into serious muscle and kidney complications. In addition to watching for muscle pain, you'll be taking blood tests to check your liver function every 3 months. Any questions?
Doctor:	We've scheduled your colonoscopy for 8:00 am on Friday. You'll need to get to the hospital by 7:00 am. You should not eat or drink anything after midnight on Thursday. These sheets have all your instructions listed that you'll need to do before the colonoscopy. It's important that all the instructions be followed. Any questions?

Here are a few possible responses:

I didn't understand everything. Can you please tell me again a little more slowly?

What is my main problem?

What do I need to do?

Why is it important for me to do this?

Would you please explain _____ .
(blood glucose, fast, dosage, cholesterol, side effects, colonoscopy)

Can you show me what you mean with a picture?

Do you have an interpreter who speaks my language?