
Questions to Encourage “Patient” Inquiry

Reading Prescription Medication Labels for Warnings

These questions should be used after students have talked with a partner about what each label means. These questions are meant to demonstrate that students may not have interpreted the label correctly. (Teachers may make up their own questions.) Discussion should also focus on who might be able to answer questions about medication labels.

1. Do Not Chew or Crush

- Are you supposed to chew these pills?
- What does the picture show?

2. Finish All This Medication

- What does the picture mean?
- What words do you recognize on this label? Are there any words you don't recognize?
- Who could you ask if you can't read the label?

3. Take Medication on an Empty Stomach

- When are you supposed to take this medication?
- How many times a day can you take this medication?
- Does the picture mean anything to you without the words?
- If you are going to eat dinner at 6:00, what time could you take this medicine?

4. May Cause Drowsiness or Dizziness

- Can you drive or operate machinery when you are using this medicine?
- Would you understand the label if you couldn't read it?
- What does “drowsiness” mean?
- What would you do if you weren't absolutely sure you understood this label on a prescription?

5. May Cause Blurred Vision

- Are there any words you don't know?
- What does this medicine do to your eyesight?
- Does this picture tell the whole meaning of the label?

6. May Impair Ability to Drive

- Does the picture mean anything to you without the words?
 - Would you understand the label if you couldn't read it?
 - What does “impair the ability to drive” mean?
 - Can you drive or operate machinery when you are using this medicine?
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Questions to Encourage “Patient” Inquiry, continued**7. This Antibiotic May Decrease the Effectiveness of Birth Control Pills**

- Who needs to be careful of taking this medication?
- What does “decrease the effectiveness” mean?
- What could happen if someone took this antibiotic while they were taking birth control pills?

8. Do Not Take Dairy Products

- What does the picture mean? Why is there a line through the picture?
- What is this label telling you?
- If you plan to take this medication at 5:00, can you drink a glass of milk at 4:30? What about taking Alka-Seltzer at 5:30?

9. Do Not Take Aspirin

- What are you not supposed to take if you are using this medication?
- If you get a headache while you are taking this medication, is it safe for you to take an Advil or an Ibuprofen tablet to help your headache? [No—these products contain aspirin—so do many other common over-the-counter medications, like Aleve, Midol, Pepto-Bismol, Alka-Seltzer, and more. Students should be cautioned to ask a doctor or pharmacist if a medication is compatible with the prescription, since it’s difficult to know which ones contain aspirin.]
- What does “without knowledge and consent of your physician” mean?

10. Do Not Take with Nitrates

- What is a nitrate?
- Who could you ask?
- Does the picture help you understand this label?

11. Obtain Medical Advice

- What does the picture mean to you?
- When are you supposed to call the doctor?

12. It May Be Advisable To Drink A Full Glass Of Orange Juice Or Eat A Banana Daily While Taking This Medication

- What does the picture mean to you?
 - What does “while taking this medication” mean?
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Questions to Encourage “Patient” Inquiry, continued**13. Avoid Chocolate**

- Can you eat a Hershey bar when you are taking this medication?
- What does “avoid” mean?
- Does the picture mean anything without the words?

14. Do Not Take Other Medicines

- Can you take this medicine while you are taking another one?
 - Could you understand the label from the picture?
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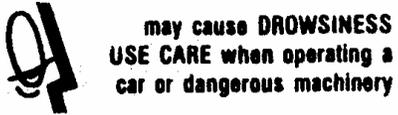
Reading Prescription Medication Labels

Directions: Write the meaning on the lines next to the warning label. Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

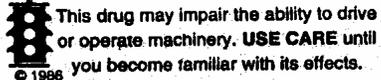
1.   **DO NOT CHEW OR CRUSH.
SWALLOW WHOLE.** ©1998 ARCH

2.  © 1976  **IMPORTANT**
**FINISH ALL THIS MEDICATION
UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED
BY PRESCRIBER.**

3.   **TAKE MEDICATION ON AN
EMPTY STOMACH
1 HOUR BEFORE OR 2 TO 3 HOURS
AFTER A MEAL UNLESS OTHERWISE
DIRECTED BY YOUR DOCTOR.**

4.   **may cause DROWSINESS
USE CARE when operating a
car or dangerous machinery**

5. **May Cause Blurred Vision.
Using This Medicine May
Lessen Your Ability To
Drive Or Perform Hazardous
Tasks.** 

6.   **This drug may impair the ability to drive
or operate machinery. USE CARE until
you become familiar with its effects.** © 1988

Reading Prescription Medical Labels, continued

7.



"This Anti-biotic may decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills"

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8.



DO NOT TAKE DAIRY PRODUCTS, ANTACIDS, OR IRON PREPARATIONS WITHIN ONE HOUR OF THIS MEDICATION.

9.



DO NOT TAKE ASPIRIN OR ASPIRIN CONTAINING PRODUCTS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF YOUR PHYSICIAN

10.



DO NOT TAKE WITH NITRATES

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11.



OBTAIN MEDICAL ADVICE Before taking nonprescription drugs. Some may affect the action of this medication.

12.



IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO DRINK A FULL GLASS OF ORANGE JUICE OR EAT A BANANA DAILY WHILE TAKING THIS MEDICATION.

Reading Prescription Medical Labels, continued

13.



**AVOID CHOCOLATE, WINE
CHEESE, WHILE TAKING
THIS MEDICATION.**

14.

**Do Not Take Other
Medicines Without
Checking With Your
Doctor Or Pharmacist.**