



A2

A2 · UNIT 1 · EPISODE 6

At the Doctor's Office

How to tell a doctor where it hurts, how long, and what kind of pain.

KEY WORDS

It hurts here.	Say this and point to where the pain is.	<i>My shoulder hurts. It hurts here.</i>
since	From a time in the past until now.	<i>It's been hurting since Monday.</i>
for	How long something has happened.	<i>It's been hurting for three days.</i>
sharp	A quick, strong pain.	<i>Is the pain sharp?</i>
dull	A pain that is not strong, but stays.	<i>It's a dull pain.</i>
comes and goes	Sometimes it is there, sometimes it is not.	<i>The pain comes and goes.</i>

THE STORY

- Ray** Hi, I'm Ray.
- Nina** And I'm Nina.
- Ray** Nina, you went to the doctor last month, right?
- Nina** I did. And I was so nervous about the English.
- Ray** What were you worried about?
- Nina** I didn't know how to describe the problem. I only knew the word pain.
- Ray** That's actually enough to start. But let me give you three things that help a lot.
- Nina** Okay, three things.
- Ray** First: where. Point and say, it hurts here.
- Nina** It hurts here. That's simple.
- Ray** Second: how long. Since Monday. For three days. About a week.
- Nina** Since, for, about. Those are easy words.
- Ray** Third: what kind. Is it sharp, is it dull, does it come and go?
- Nina** Comes and goes. I like that one.
- Ray** Doctors ask those three things every time. Where, how long, what kind.
- Ray** And one more thing. If you don't understand, say so.
- Nina** That's the hard part!
- Ray** Try this: Sorry, could you say that again more slowly?
- Nina** Could you say that again more slowly. Okay.

Ray Nobody will be annoyed. They want you to understand.

Nina Let's practice. You're the doctor.

Ray Sure. Hi, what brings you in today?

Nina Hi. My shoulder hurts. It hurts here.

Ray Okay. How long has it been hurting?

Nina Since last Monday. About a week.

Ray Is the pain sharp, or more of a dull ache?

Nina Sorry, could you say that again more slowly?

Ray Of course. Is it a sharp pain, or a dull pain?

Nina Dull. And it comes and goes.

Ray Perfect. That's everything a doctor needs.

Nina That was much easier than I thought.

Ray So: where it hurts, how long, what kind. And if you're lost — could you say that again more slowly?

Nina That's it for today. See you next time.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. What three things does a doctor ask?

- ☐ **A** Where, how long, what kind
- ☐ **B** Who, when, why
- ☐ **C** Name, age, address

2. Nina doesn't understand the doctor. What does she say?

- ☐ **A** I don't know.
- ☐ **B** Sorry, could you say that again more slowly?
- ☐ **C** Yes, yes.

3. What hurts?

- ☐ **A** Her back
- ☐ **B** Her shoulder
- ☐ **C** Her head

4. How long has it been hurting?

- ☐ **A** Since last Monday
- ☐ **B** For two days
- ☐ **C** Since yesterday

5. What kind of pain is it?

- ☐ **A** Sharp, and it never stops
- ☐ **B** No pain at all
- ☐ **C** Dull, and it comes and goes

Shadowing tip. Pick three lines you like from the story. Say each one five times, faster each time, until it sounds natural.

ANSWER KEY

1. **A** Where it hurts, how long, and what kind of pain.
2. **B** Sorry, could you say that again more slowly? Nobody will be annoyed.
3. **B** Hi. My shoulder hurts. It hurts here.
4. **A** Since last Monday. About a week.
5. **C** "Dull. And it comes and goes."

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