Going to the Doctor: Medical English

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When you feel sick, you go to the **doctor**. The doctor works at a **clinic** or a **hospital**. Before you see the doctor, you tell the **nurse** what is wrong. The nurse writes down your **symptoms** — the things you feel when you are sick. Common symptoms include a **fever**, a **cough**, a **sore throat**, or a **stomachache**.

Inside the doctor's room, the doctor asks questions and checks your body. This is called an **examination**. The doctor may listen to your heart with a **stethoscope**, look at your throat, or check your blood **pressure**. These checks help the doctor find out what is wrong with you.

After the examination, the doctor tells you what is wrong. This is called the **diagnosis**. If you need medicine, the doctor writes a **prescription**. You take the prescription to a **pharmacy** to get your medicine. The pharmacist gives you the medicine and tells you how to take it.

It is important to tell the doctor everything. Tell the doctor how long you have been sick and exactly where it hurts. Also tell the doctor if you are **allergic** to any medicine. An allergy means your body reacts badly to something. Good communication helps the doctor help you get better quickly.

A. Vocabulary

1. symptom ____	a. a written note from the doctor that lets you get medicine
2. examination ____	b. when your body temperature is higher than normal
3. diagnosis ____	c. a person who prepares and gives out medicine at a pharmacy
4. prescription ____	d. when your body reacts badly to something, like a food or medicine
5. pharmacy ____	e. something you feel when you are sick, like pain or a fever
6. fever ____	f. a check of your body by a doctor to find out what is wrong
7. stethoscope ____	g. the doctor's decision about what illness you have
8. allergy ____	h. a shop where you can buy medicine with a prescription
9. pressure ____	i. a tool doctors use to listen to your heart and lungs
10. pharmacist ____	j. the force of blood pushing against the walls of your blood vessels

B. True or False

____ 1. A doctor works at a clinic or a hospital.
____ 2. You tell your symptoms to the doctor before the nurse.
____ 3. A fever means your body temperature is higher than normal.
____ 4. A stethoscope is used to check your blood pressure.
____ 5. The examination is when the doctor checks your body.
____ 6. A diagnosis tells you the name of your illness.
____ 7. You take a prescription to the pharmacy to get medicine.
____ 8. You should hide your allergies from the doctor.
____ 9. The pharmacist tells you how to take your medicine.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: symptom, prescription, diagnosis, allergy, pharmacy

1. The things you feel when you are sick, like a cough or fever, are called _____.
2. After the examination, the doctor tells you the _____ — what illness you have.
3. A doctor writes a _____ so you can get medicine.
4. You go to a _____ to get the medicine the doctor ordered.
5. If medicine makes your body react badly, you have an _____ to it.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What does a nurse do before you see the doctor?
2. Name two things a doctor might do during an examination.
3. Why is it important to tell the doctor if you are allergic to any medicine?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Think about the last time you or someone you know went to the doctor. What was the reason for the visit, and what happened during the examination?
2. Some people are afraid to go to the doctor. Why do you think that happens, and what would you say to someone who is scared to visit a clinic?

Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-e, 2-f, 3-g, 4-a, 5-h, 6-b, 7-i, 8-d, 9-j, 10-c

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-symptom, 2-diagnosis, 3-prescription, 4-pharmacy, 5-allergy

D. Comprehension:

1. Before you see the doctor, the nurse asks what is wrong and writes down your symptoms.
2. During an examination the doctor may listen to your heart with a stethoscope, look at your throat, or check your blood pressure. (Accept any two.)
3. Telling the doctor about your allergies is important because some medicines can make your body react very badly if you are allergic to them. The doctor will choose a safe medicine instead.

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