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## **Level 5**

# **Doubts cast on influenza medication**

**11th April, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140411-medication-5.html>



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Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140411-medication.html>

Medical experts are questioning why so much was spent on developing and stocking up on influenza drugs. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are prescribed by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have stockpiled the drugs as a precaution against an influenza epidemic. New research casts doubt on their effectiveness and manufacturers' claims. A non-profit healthcare research network and the British Medical Journal published a report based on clinical trials of the drugs. The study questions whether governments should be spending money on the drugs.

The research says the drugs shorten the symptoms of influenza by half a day. However, there is insufficient evidence about whether they reduce the chances of hospitalization or complications. Researchers said Tamiflu increased the risk of nausea and vomiting and could cause headaches and depression. The makers said the research excluded "real-world data". The research said Relenza was the same as gargling with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. Its maker said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it can reduce the duration of flu symptoms."

Sources: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/09/tamiflu-relenza-study/7478287/>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-26954482>  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/tamiflu-s-effectiveness-in-cutting-hospitalizations-questioned-1.2604783>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140411-medication.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. experts are questioning why | a. the drugs              |
| 2. stocking up                 | b. trials                 |
| 3. stockpiled                  | c. on their effectiveness |
| 4. precaution against          | d. research network       |
| 5. research casts doubt        | e. so much was spent      |
| 6. A non-profit healthcare     | f. on the drugs           |
| 7. clinical                    | g. on influenza drugs     |
| 8. spending money              | h. an influenza epidemic  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. drugs shorten the symptoms | a. appropriately          |
| 2. there is insufficient      | b. of hospitalization     |
| 3. they reduce the chances    | c. with salt water        |
| 4. increased the risk of      | d. counter pain relievers |
| 5. the research excluded      | e. of influenza           |
| 6. gargling                   | f. "real-world data"      |
| 7. taking over-the-           | g. evidence               |
| 8. When used                  | h. nausea and vomiting    |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140411-medication.html>

Medical experts are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ was spent on developing and stocking up on influenza drugs. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are prescribed by doctors (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Governments have stockpiled the drugs (3) \_\_\_\_\_ against an influenza epidemic. New research (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their effectiveness and manufacturers' claims. A non-profit healthcare research network and the British Medical Journal published (5) \_\_\_\_\_ clinical trials of the drugs. The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ governments should be spending money on the drugs.

The research says the drugs (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of influenza by half a day. However, there (8) \_\_\_\_\_ about whether they reduce the chances of hospitalization or complications. Researchers said Tamiflu increased (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and vomiting and could cause headaches and depression. The (10) \_\_\_\_\_ excluded "real-world data". The research said Relenza was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. Its maker said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ duration of flu symptoms."

# MEDICINE SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140411-medication.html>

Write five GOOD questions about medicine in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

*Doubts cast on influenza medication – 12th April, 2014*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

# FREE WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1404/140411-medication.html>

Write about **medicine** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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