

Safer medicine

Level

Upper intermediate

Tasks

Matching medical conditions with a description of their effects

Reading an article about the safety of new medicines

Using collocations taken or adapted from the article

Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Tell students that this lesson will be about the pharmaceutical industry. Brainstorm the names of some serious but common illnesses that affect large numbers of people in the 21st century. Issue the worksheet and get students to match the medical conditions with the description of their effects. See if they have heard of any medical cures for any of them.

Answers

a3 b4 c6 d2 e1 f5

- 2 Ask students to scan the article and find which of the conditions in 1 are mentioned in the text.

Answers:

Paragraph 1: high cholesterol / asthma

Paragraph 3: heart attack / stroke

- 3 Check the students are familiar with term *clinical trials* and ask them to read the text again for general understanding. Students can then summarise the position of the drug companies and the criticism it has received. Ask students to try to use the collocations in their summaries. Deal with any other questions of vocabulary at this point.
- 4 Ask students to discuss the questions in small groups and then to report back to the class. If appropriate, the discussion can be widened to include other issues such as: do the students agree with alternative medicines?

Related websites

Send your students these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.gsk.com/index.htm>

<http://www.astrazeneca.com/>

<http://www.viox.com/rofecoxib/viox/consumer/index.jsp>