Unit three
Hospital admission
season one
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Grammar

Past simple and past continuous :

1- past simple

Usage :-

We use past simple to talk about things which happened in the past .

Structure sentence

S +V ed + C (positive)

S +did not +v + c (negative)

Did +s +v +c (question)

Wh +did +S+V+C (except who)

For example

I left terrible when I got home last night .

I slipped on ice and hurt my knee.

Note

Some verbs have a regular past simple , ending – ed. ask – asked , arrive – arrived

The past simple of some verbs is irregular .

Go –went , come, came , take ,took

Past continuous

Usage

We use the past continuous to talk about an action that was happening in the background when another event happened .It is often used in a sentence with when + past simple .

He was getting off the bus when he slipped .

You can change the order of the sentence .

When he slipped , he was getting off the bus .

Note

He ,she , it and I (was)

They ,we ,you (were)

- **Structure of sentence**
- **S + was or were + v ing +c (positive)**
- **S + was or were not +ving +c (negative)**
- **Were or was + s +ving +c (yes or no Q)**
- **Wh + were or was + s +ving +c (question)**

1- Take a seat in the waiting room

2-The first nurse you meet will be a specialist called a triage nurse

3-The nurse will make initial assessment

4-This helps decide who is priority

5-A patient with a life threatening conditional will see a doctor immediately .

6-A nurse will get personal details from you and fill in a hospital registration form .

7- When there is a free cubicle a doctor will see you .

8- The doctor will decide on the treatment .

PATIENT RECORD

Surname : Behr First name : Sarah
DOB O3/1 /84
Gender : F
Occupation : teacher
Marital status : married
Next of kin: father
Contact no : 01793-793456
Smoking intake :n/a
Alcohol intake : 10 units per week
Reason for admission : suspected fractured arm
Family history : heart disease (father's side)
Allergies : nuts

Reading

Every minute spent filling in forms is a minute spent not with patients.
Elena Kneip
Nurse

Reading

Bad handwriting

1 What do people say about your handwriting? Is it clear and easy to read?

2 As fast as you can, write down three types of medicine and three diseases. Show it to your partner. Can they read what you have written? Have you made any mistakes?

3 Read the article and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1 Nurses study doctors' handwriting at school. ____
2 Doctors generally write numbers more carefully than words. ____
3 Methimazole and Metolazone are used for different conditions. ____
4 Ramachandra Kolluru is a pharmacist. ____
5 Researchers could understand 84% of doctors' notes. ____
6 Many hospitals use abbreviations in order to avoid mistakes. ____
7 At Charing Cross hospital, staff carry computers around. ____

4 Find words in the article to match these definitions.

1 non-medical people who work in hospital offices ____
2 written instructions on what drug to give a patient ____
3 made somebody pay money as a punishment ____
4 to cut off part of the body ____
5 an arm or leg ____
6 mistakes that result in death ____

There is an old joke that doctors go to school to learn how to write badly, and nurses go to school to learn how to read doctors' handwriting. There is truth in the joke – computer analysis of the handwriting of medical staff shows that doctors' writing is a lot worse than that of nurses and administrative staff. Maybe it's because doctors are always under pressure of time that they write very fast. The habit starts when they are medical students and gets worse as time passes.

Computer analysis shows that generally medical staff are careful with numbers. However, they tend to form letters of the alphabet badly. When drug names look very similar, bad handwriting can mean patients get the wrong medicine. A young girl nearly died when she was given Methimazole instead of Metolazone (one is for high blood pressure and the other is for thyroid problems). And in 1999, an American cardiologist, Ramachandra Kolluru, wrote a prescription so badly that the pharmacist gave a patient the wrong medicine. This time the patient did die and a court fined the doctor 225,000 US dollars.

Recently, researchers studied 50 patient progress notes. They found that they could not read 16% of the words. The misunderstandings that this causes can mean that a patient is given the wrong blood, or that a surgeon amputates the wrong limb. Fatal errors, of course, make news, but studies show that every year hundreds of thousands of mistakes are made in hospitals around the world, and a lot of them are because of bad handwriting or abbreviations which nobody understands. Bad handwriting also causes delays, which are expensive and wasteful.

There are many technological solutions for the problem, and though digital technology can't improve handwriting, it can improve the situation. At London's Charing Cross hospital, for example, patients wear bar codes (the same as in a supermarket) on their wrists or ankles. Staff use the bar codes along with hand-held computers to get accurate, clear, and easy-to-read information.

Key words

Nouns
Accounts
Appointment
Cubicle
First aid
initial assessment
life threatening conditional
Limb
prescription
Priority
Progress note
registration
triage nurse
treatment

adjective
fatal
allergic