

# www.Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## Level 6

# Doubts cast on influenza medication

11th April, 2014

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



## Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

Twitter



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE ARTICLE

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

Medical experts are questioning why so much money was spent developing and then stocking up on medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are commonly prescribed by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have heavily stockpiled the drugs as a precaution in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research casts doubt on their effectiveness and on the claims made by their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, 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 Tamiflu does what manufacturers claim in that it shortens the symptoms of influenza by half a day. However, it says there is insufficient evidence to support claims that the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or serious complications. The researchers also found Tamiflu increased the risk of nausea and vomiting by up to five per cent, and could cause headaches and depression. Tamiflu's makers said the research excluded "real-world data". The research team said Relenza worked little better than gargling with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. MEDICINE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about medicine. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*medical / experts / developing / flu / epidemic / manufacturers / healthcare / drugs / symptoms / evidence / likelihood / hospitalization / complications / gargling / symptom*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. MEDICATION:** What's best to treat these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What do you do?	Why?
Flu		
Headache		
Muscle pain		
Toothache		
Vomiting		
Diarrhoea		

**4. DRUGS:** Students A **strongly** believe people should get a refund if drugs do not cure them; Students B **strongly** believe that's silly. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. EFFECTIVE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most effective for treating colds at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- sleep
- hot-water bottle
- honey and lemon
- keeping warm
- injection
- cold tablets
- garlic
- mother's secret remedy

**6. INFLUENZA:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "influenza". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. There are questions about why governments spent money on drugs.      | T / F |
| b. Governments bought lots of the drugs in case of a bird flu epidemic. | T / F |
| c. New research suggests manufacturers claims are wrong.                | T / F |
| d. The British Influenza Journal published the report.                  | T / F |
| e. Researchers found that Tamiflu reduced flu symptoms by half a day.   | T / F |
| f. Researchers agreed that Tamiflu helped reduce hospitalizations.      | T / F |
| g. A drug maker said the researchers did not look at the proper data.   | T / F |
| h. The researchers said gargling with salt water worked better.         | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. experts        | a. time span   |
| 2. stocking up on | b. specialists |
| 3. precaution     | c. tests       |
| 4. effectiveness  | d. lessens     |
| 5. trials         | e. safeguard   |
| 6. insufficient   | f. left out    |
| 7. reduces        | g. amassing    |
| 8. likelihood     | h. usefulness  |
| 9. excluded       | i. possibility |
| 10. duration      | j. not enough  |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. experts are questioning              | a. evidence               |
| 2. stocking up                          | b. as a precaution        |
| 3. commonly prescribed                  | c. with salt water        |
| 4. stockpiled the drugs                 | d. on medications         |
| 5. a report based on clinical           | e. manufacturers claim    |
| 6. Tamiflu does what                    | f. and vomiting           |
| 7. insufficient                         | g. why                    |
| 8. Tamiflu increased the risk of nausea | h. counter pain relievers |
| 9. worked little better than gargling   | i. by doctors             |
| 10. over-the-                           | j. trials                 |

# GAP FILL

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

Medical experts are questioning why so much money was spent developing and then (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up on medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ spray Relenza are commonly (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have heavily stockpiled the drugs as a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research casts (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on their effectiveness and on the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ made by their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit healthcare research network, and the British Medical Journal published a report (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on clinical (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of the drugs. The study questions whether governments should be spending money on the drugs.

*doubt*  
*based*  
*stocking*  
*precaution*  
*trials*  
*nasal*  
*claims*  
*prescribed*

The research says Tamiflu does what manufacturers (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in that it shortens the symptoms of influenza by half a day. However, it says there is insufficient (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to support claims that the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or serious (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The researchers also found Tamiflu increased the risk of nausea and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ by up to five per cent, and could cause headaches and (13) \_\_\_\_\_. Tamiflu's makers said the research excluded "real-world (14) \_\_\_\_\_". The research team said Relenza worked little better than (15) \_\_\_\_\_ with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it can reduce the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ of flu symptoms."

*depression*  
*gargling*  
*evidence*  
*vomiting*  
*claim*  
*duration*  
*complications*  
*data*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) so much money was spent developing and then stocking \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. up in medications
  - b. up on medication
  - c. up in medication
  - d. up on medications
- 2) commonly prescribed by doctors to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. treating the flu
  - b. treat the flu
  - c. treats the flu
  - d. treated the flu
- 3) heavily stockpiled the drugs as a precaution in the event of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the influenza epidemic
  - b. influenza epidemics
  - c. and influenza epidemic
  - d. an influenza epidemic
- 4) new research casts doubt on their effectiveness and on the claims made \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. by their manufacturer
  - b. by their manufacturing
  - c. by their manufacturers
  - d. by their manufactured
- 5) the British Medical Journal published a report based \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on clinical trials
  - b. on clinical trails
  - c. on clinical try-all
  - d. on clinical trial
- 6) However, it says there is insufficient evidence \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. too support claims
  - b. to support claims
  - c. two support claims
  - d. through support claims
- 7) the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. or seriously complications
  - b. or serious complicated
  - c. or serious complications
  - d. or seriously complicated
- 8) The researchers also found Tamiflu increased the risk of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. nausea and vomiting
  - b. nausea and vomit in
  - c. naughty and vomiting
  - d. no seer and vomiting
- 9) worked little better than gargling with salt water or taking over-the-\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. counter pain reliever
  - b. counters pain relievers
  - c. counter pain relievers
  - d. counter paine relievers
- 10) in the right patient, it can reduce the duration \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of flu symptoms
  - b. of flu symptom
  - c. of flu symptomatic
  - d. of flu simpletons

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Medical experts are (1) \_\_\_\_\_ much money was spent developing and then (2) \_\_\_\_\_ medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are commonly prescribed by doctors to treat the flu. Governments (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the drugs as a precaution in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research (4) \_\_\_\_\_ effectiveness and on the claims made by their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit healthcare research network, and the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ published a report based (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the drugs. The study questions whether governments should be spending money on the drugs.

The research says Tamiflu does what manufacturers claim in that it shortens the symptoms of (7) \_\_\_\_\_. However, it says there is insufficient (8) \_\_\_\_\_ claims that the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or serious complications. The researchers also found Tamiflu (9) \_\_\_\_\_ nausea and vomiting by up to five per cent, and could cause headaches and depression. Tamiflu's makers said the research (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The research team said Relenza worked little better than (11) \_\_\_\_\_ or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of flu symptoms."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Who is questioning the money governments spent?

---

2. What kind of spray is Relenza?

---

3. What is the stockpiling of the drugs a precaution against?

---

4. Whose claims are in doubt regarding the drugs?

---

5. What kind of trials was the report based on?

---

6. How long can Tamiflu reduce influenza symptoms by?

---

7. What kind of evidence supports claims of reduced hospitalizations?

---

8. What goes up by 5% with taking Tamiflu?

---

9. What kind of pain relievers are mentioned in the article?

---

10. Who did a manufacturer say its product could help?

---



# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

1. Who is questioning the money governments spent?
  - a) patients
  - b) medical experts
  - c) drugs companies
  - d) the government
2. What kind of spray is Relenza?
  - a) an inflammable one
  - b) an aerosol spray
  - c) a handy one
  - d) a nasal spray
3. What is the stockpiling of the drugs a precaution against?
  - a) competition
  - b) price rises
  - c) an influenza epidemic
  - d) drug-company bankruptcies
4. Whose claims are in doubt regarding the drugs?
  - a) manufacturers
  - b) doctors
  - c) patients
  - d) pharmacists
5. What kind of trials was the report based on?
  - a) court trials
  - b) clinical
  - c) indecisive ones
  - d) difficult ones
6. How long can Tamiflu reduce influenza symptoms by?
  - a) half a day
  - b) a few hours
  - c) a week
  - d) several days
7. What kind of evidence supports claims of reduced hospitalizations?
  - a) court evidence
  - b) forensic evidence
  - c) insufficient evidence
  - d) hard evidence
8. What goes up by 5% with taking Tamiflu?
  - a) the risk of vomiting
  - b) inflation
  - c) body temperature
  - d) share prices of the drug company
9. What kind of pain relievers are mentioned in the article?
  - a) generic ones
  - b) ones that stop headaches
  - c) ineffective ones
  - d) over-the-counter ones
10. Who did a manufacturer say its product could help?
  - a) children
  - b) adults
  - c) the right patient
  - d) everyone

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Sleep**

You think sleep is the best remedy for influenza. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their cures. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): garlic, honey and lemon or drugs.

## **Role B – Garlic**

You think garlic is the best remedy for influenza. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their cures. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): sleep, honey and lemon or drugs.

## **Role C – Honey and lemon**

You think a honey and lemon mix is the best remedy for influenza. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their cures. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): garlic, sleep or drugs.

## **Role D – Drugs**

You think a pill from the doctor is the best remedy for influenza. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their cures. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): garlic, honey and lemon or sleep.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'question' and 'why'.

question	why

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• experts</li><li>• commonly</li><li>• heavily</li><li>• event</li><li>• casts</li><li>• based</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• shortens</li><li>• likelihood</li><li>• nausea</li><li>• depression</li><li>• little</li><li>• right</li></ul>
--	--

# 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.

## MEDICINE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'medicine'?
- c) How often are you ill?
- d) What do you do as a precaution against illness?
- e) What are the symptoms of flu?
- f) Have you ever had the flu? What was it like?
- g) What do you think about what you read?
- h) Do governments do enough research before buying things?
- i) Do you believe the claims made by manufacturers about their drugs?
- j) What's the best thing to do when you have a cold?

*Doubts cast on influenza medication – 11th April, 2014*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## MEDICINE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What would you do if there was an epidemic?
- c) Have you ever taken medicine that didn't work?
- d) Is it worth taking a medicine that ends your symptoms half a day early?
- e) Does the body become less able to fight disease if we always take medicine?
- f) What good does gargling do?
- g) Should governments ask the drug companies for a refund?
- h) Do you think over-the-counter medicine works well?
- i) Is medicine too expensive?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com 2014

---

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Medical experts are questioning why (1) \_\_\_\_\_ much money was spent developing and then stocking up on medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are (2) \_\_\_\_\_ prescribed by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have heavily stockpiled the drugs (3) \_\_\_\_\_ a precaution in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research casts doubt (4) \_\_\_\_\_ their effectiveness and on the claims made by their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit healthcare research network, and the British Medical Journal published a report based on clinical (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the drugs. The study questions (6) \_\_\_\_\_ governments should be spending money on the drugs.

The research says Tamiflu does what manufacturers claim (7) \_\_\_\_\_ that it shortens the symptoms of influenza by half a day. However, it says there is insufficient evidence to support claims that the drug reduces the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of hospitalization or serious complications. The researchers also found Tamiflu increased the risk of nausea and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ by up to five per cent, and could cause headaches and depression. Tamiflu's makers said the research (10) \_\_\_\_\_ "real-world data". The research team said Relenza worked little better than (11) \_\_\_\_\_ with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it can reduce the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of flu symptoms."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |                 |               |              |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) so         | (b) as          | (c) that      | (d) big      |
| 2.  | (a) common     | (b) commoner    | (c) commonly  | (d) commons  |
| 3.  | (a) was        | (b) is          | (c) as        | (d) has      |
| 4.  | (a) in         | (b) of          | (c) to        | (d) on       |
| 5.  | (a) trials     | (b) trails      | (c) rituals   | (d) retails  |
| 6.  | (a) or         | (b) whether     | (c) otherwise | (d) which    |
| 7.  | (a) by         | (b) as          | (c) on        | (d) in       |
| 8.  | (a) livelihood | (b) likelihood  | (c) lively    | (d) liking   |
| 9.  | (a) vomits     | (b) vomited     | (c) vomiting  | (d) vomit    |
| 10. | (a) banned     | (b) blackballed | (c) banished  | (d) excluded |
| 11. | (a) giggling   | (b) juggling    | (c) gagging   | (d) gargling |
| 12. | (a) diction    | (b) detention   | (c) direction | (d) duration |

# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. Medical xprstee
2. stocking up on instcioaemd for influenza
3. commonly rdcbspeire by doctors
4. in the event of an influenza ipcmeide
5. casts doubt on their iceneesefsvt
6. based on ianlclic trials

## Paragraph 2

7. it shortens the msostmyp of influenza
8. there is insufficient nvicedeed to support claims
9. serious smptnclcoaioi
10. increased the risk of asneua and vomiting
11. taking over-the-counter pain seerelvri
12. When used rplioatpypare ...



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) relievers. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it can reduce the duration of flu symptoms."
- ( ) precaution in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research casts doubt
- ( ) symptoms of influenza by half a day. However, it says there is insufficient evidence to support
- ( ) The research says Tamiflu does what manufacturers claim in that it shortens the
- ( ) prescribed by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have heavily stockpiled the drugs as a
- ( ) up on medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are commonly
- ( ) depression. Tamiflu's makers said the research excluded "real-world data". The research
- ( ) on their effectiveness and on the claims made by their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, 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 risk of nausea and vomiting by up to five per cent, and could cause headaches and
- ( **1** ) Medical experts are questioning why so much money was spent developing and then stocking
- ( ) team said Relenza worked little better than gargling with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain
- ( ) claims that the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or serious complications. The researchers also found Tamiflu increased

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. questioning much spent are so was Experts why money.

---

2. by the prescribed treat Commonly to doctors flu.

---

3. an in of epidemic precaution event influenza A the.

---

4. their on doubt casts research New effectiveness.

---

5. drugs report clinical the A on of based trials.

---

6. symptoms of influenza by half a day It shortens the.

---

7. likelihood the reduces drug The hospitalization of.

---

8. excluded "real-world . Makers said the research data"

---

9. Relenza better with little gargling water worked than salt.

---

10. duration It of can flu reduce symptoms the.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Medical experts are questioning why so much money was spent developing and then stocking *out / up* on medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and *nasal / naval* spray Relenza are commonly *proscribed / prescribed* by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have *heavy / heavily* stockpiled the drugs as a *precaution / precautionary* in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research *casts / cast* doubt on their effectiveness and on the claims made *by / at* their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, a non-profit healthcare *research / researched* network, and the British Medical Journal published a report based *in / on* clinical trials of the drugs. The study questions whether governments should be *spending / spent* money on the drugs.

The research says Tamiflu does what *manufacturing / manufacturers* claim in that it shortens the *symptomatic / symptoms* of influenza by half a day. However, it says there is insufficient *providence / evidence* to support claims that the drug reduces the *livelihood / likelihood* of hospitalization or serious complications. The researchers also found Tamiflu increased the *risky / risk* of nausea and vomiting by *up / as* to five per cent, and could cause headaches and *depressing / depression*. Tamiflu's makers said the research excluded "real-world data". The research team said Relenza worked little *better / well* than gargling with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain *relievers / reliefs*. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it can *deduce / reduce* the duration of flu symptoms."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

M\_d\_c\_l \_xp\_rts \_r\_ q\_\_st\_\_n\_ng why s\_ m\_ch m\_n\_y  
w\_s sp\_nt d\_v\_l\_p\_ng \_nd th\_n st\_ck\_ng \_p \_n  
m\_d\_c\_t\_\_ns f\_r \_nfl\_\_nz\_. Th\_ t\_bl\_t T\_m\_fl\_ \_nd  
n\_s\_l spr\_y R\_l\_nz\_ \_r\_ c\_mmm\_nly pr\_scr\_b\_d by  
d\_ct\_rs t\_ tr\_\_t th\_ fl\_. G\_v\_rnm\_nts h\_v\_ h\_v\_ly  
st\_ckp\_l\_d th\_ dr\_gs \_s\_ pr\_c\_\_t\_\_n \_n th\_ v\_nt \_f  
\_n \_nfl\_\_nz\_ \_p\_d\_m\_c. H\_w\_v\_r, n\_w\_r\_s\_\_rch c\_sts  
d\_\_bt \_n th\_\_r \_ff\_ct\_v\_n\_ss \_nd \_n th\_ cl\_\_ms m\_d\_  
by th\_\_r m\_n\_f\_ct\_r\_rs. Th\_ C\_chr\_n\_ C\_ll\_b\_r\_t\_\_n,  
\_n\_n-pr\_f\_t h\_lthc\_r\_ r\_s\_\_rch n\_tw\_rk, \_nd th\_  
Br\_t\_sh M\_d\_c\_l J\_\_rn\_l p\_bl\_sh\_d \_r\_p\_rt b\_s\_d \_n  
cl\_n\_c\_l tr\_\_ls \_f th\_ dr\_gs. Th\_ st\_dy q\_\_st\_\_ns  
wh\_th\_r g\_v\_rnm\_nts sh\_\_ld b\_ sp\_nd\_ng m\_n\_y \_n th\_  
dr\_gs.

Th\_ r\_s\_\_rch s\_ys T\_m\_fl\_ d\_\_s wh\_t m\_n\_f\_ct\_r\_rs  
cl\_\_m \_n th\_t \_t sh\_rt\_ns th\_ sympt\_ms \_f \_nfl\_\_nz\_  
by h\_lf \_d\_y. H\_w\_v\_r, \_t s\_ys th\_r\_ \_s\_ \_ns\_ff\_c\_\_nt  
\_v\_d\_nc\_ t\_ s\_pp\_rt cl\_\_ms th\_t th\_ dr\_g\_r\_d\_c\_s th\_  
l\_k\_l\_h\_\_d \_f h\_sp\_t\_l\_z\_t\_\_n \_r s\_r\_\_s  
c\_mpl\_c\_t\_\_ns. Th\_ r\_s\_\_rch\_rs \_ls\_ f\_\_nd T\_m\_fl\_  
\_ncr\_\_s\_d th\_r\_sk \_f n\_\_s\_\_ \_nd v\_m\_t\_ng by \_p\_t\_  
f\_v\_ p\_r\_c\_\_nt, \_nd c\_\_ld c\_\_s\_ h\_\_d\_ch\_s \_nd  
d\_pr\_ss\_\_n. T\_m\_fl\_'s m\_k\_rs s\_\_d th\_ r\_s\_\_rch  
\_xcl\_d\_d "r\_\_l-w\_rld d\_t\_". Th\_ r\_s\_\_rch t\_\_m s\_\_d  
R\_l\_nz\_ w\_rk\_d lttl\_ b\_tt\_r th\_n g\_rgl\_ng w\_th s\_l\_t  
w\_t\_r \_r\_t\_k\_ng \_v\_r-th\_-c\_\_nt\_r\_p\_\_n r\_l\_\_v\_rs. Th\_  
m\_k\_r, G\_l\_x\_Sm\_thKl\_n\_, s\_\_d: "Wh\_n \_s\_d  
\_ppr\_pr\_\_t\_ly, \_n th\_r\_gh\_t p\_t\_\_nt, \_t c\_n r\_d\_c\_ th\_  
d\_r\_t\_\_n \_f fl\_ sympt\_ms."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

medical experts are questioning why so much money was spent developing and then stocking up on medications for influenza the tablet tamiflu and nasal spray relenza are commonly prescribed by doctors to treat the flu governments have heavily stockpiled the drugs as a precaution in the event of an influenza epidemic however new research casts doubt on their effectiveness and on the claims made by their manufacturers the cochrane collaboration 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 tamiflu does what manufacturers claim in that it shortens the symptoms of influenza by half a day however it says there is insufficient evidence to support claims that the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or serious complications the researchers also found tamiflu increased the risk of nausea and vomiting by up to five per cent and could cause headaches and depression tamiflu's makers said the research excluded "real-world data" the research team said relenza worked little better than gargling with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers the maker glaxosmithkline said "when used appropriately in the right patient it can reduce the duration of flu symptoms"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Medical experts are questioning why so much money was spent developing and then stocking up on medications for influenza. The tablet Tamiflu and nasal spray Relenza are commonly prescribed by doctors to treat the flu. Governments have heavily stockpiled the drugs as a precaution in the event of an influenza epidemic. However, new research casts doubt on their effectiveness and on the claims made by their manufacturers. The Cochrane Collaboration, 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 Tamiflu does what manufacturers claim in that it shortens the symptoms of influenza by half a day. However, it says there is insufficient evidence to support claims that the drug reduces the likelihood of hospitalization or serious complications. The researchers also found Tamiflu increased the risk of nausea and vomiting by up to five percent, and could cause headaches and depression. Tamiflu's makers said the research excluded "real-world data". The research teams said Relenza worked little better than arguing with salt water or taking over-the-counter pain relievers. The maker, GlaxoSmithKline, said: "When used appropriately, in the right patient, it can reduce the duration of flu symptoms."



# ACADEMIC WRITING

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

*If a drug doesn't make someone better, the patient should get a refund. Discuss.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about influenza. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. EPIDEMICS:** Make a poster about epidemics. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. DRUGS:** Write a magazine article about governments spending money on influenza drugs. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a medical expert. Ask him/her three questions about influenza. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to avoid catching it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T    b F    c T    d F    e T    f F    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. experts        | a. specialists |
| 2. stocking up on | b. amassing    |
| 3. precaution     | c. safeguard   |
| 4. effectiveness  | d. usefulness  |
| 5. trials         | e. tests       |
| 6. insufficient   | f. not enough  |
| 7. reduces        | g. lessens     |
| 8. likelihood     | h. possibility |
| 9. excluded       | i. left out    |
| 10. duration      | j. time span   |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Medical experts
2. A nasal spray
3. An influenza epidemic
4. Manufacturers' claims
5. Clinical trials
6. Half a day
7. Insufficient evidence
8. The risk of nausea and vomiting
9. Over-the-counter ones
10. The "right patient"

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)