

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-68201-5 - Professional English in Use Medicine
Eric H. Glendinning and Ron Howard
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Professional English in Use

Medicine

Eric H. Glendinning
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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo
Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK
www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521682015
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permission of Cambridge University Press.
First published 2007
Produced by Kamae Design, Oxford
Printed in Italy by Eurografica (part of the LEGO group)
A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library
ISBN 978-0-521-68201-5 Edition with answers



Thanks and acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Dr Colin Robertson, Dr Derek Bell, Dr Peter Williamson, Mrs P Tyler RM, Dr S. Glendinning, Dr E. Byrne, and Dr V. Hogg for help and advice on the medical content.

Thanks also to Nick Robinson and Lyn Strutt for their editorial input, and to the production department at Cambridge University Press.

The publishers would like to thank Nick Hillman and Bob Hubbard of Anglia Ruskin University and Dr Sue Nelson for reviewing the material prior to publication.

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Lothian NHS Board for the adapted text on p. 27 from the information booklet ‘Going to hospital’;

BMJ for the adapted material on p. 32, ‘The foundation programme curriculum – Q and As’ BMJ Careers, 9 April 2005, p. 71, ‘Herpes zoster’, p. 72, ‘Trauma part 2: Non-ballistic trauma’, M. D. Tsaloumas et al, 2 May 1998, p. 101, ‘Depression and unwanted first pregnancy’, S. Schmiede and N. F. Russo, 3 December 2005, p. 101, ‘Cannabis intoxication and fatal road crashes in France’ B. Laumon et al, 10 December 2005, p. 119, ‘Alcohol drinking in middle age and subsequent risk of mild cognitive impairment and dementia in old age’, T. Antila et al, 4 September 2004, p. 119, ‘Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and serious gastrointestinal adverse reactions’, 1 March 1986, p. 123, ‘Paternal age and schizophrenia – a population based cohort study’, A. Sipos et al, 22 October 2004, p. 124, ‘Age at retirement and long term survival of an industrial population’, S. P. Tsai et al, 29 October 2005, p. 125, ‘Incidence and prognosis of asthma and wheezing illness from early childhood to age 33’, Dr P. Strachan et al, 11 May 1995, with permission from the BMJ Publishing Group;

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Hodder Education for the extract on p. 46 and photograph on p. 54 from *Chamberlain’s Symptoms & Signs in Clinical Medicine*, John Wright, 1980, and on pp. 53, 56, 59, 60, 62, 64, 69, 128, 100 Cases in *Clinical Medicine*, P. J. Rees et al, 2000;

The Times for the headlines on p. 57, ‘Cases of HIV infection reach record high in the UK’, 25 November, 2005, and p. 61. ‘Smells can diagnose Alzheimer’s’, 14 December 2005, and for the adapted article and bar chart on p. 120 from ‘Relentless rise of AIDS as HIV infections top 40m’ by Sam Lister, 22 November 2005, © N I Syndication;

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General Medical Council for extract on p. 98 taken from GMC Guidelines, www.gmc-uk.org;

Dr Colin Robertson for extracts on pp 126–127 from a talk on carbon monoxide poisoning.

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Picture Research by Hilary Luckcock.



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Introduction

Who is this book for?

Professional English in Use Medicine is designed to help those who want to read medical journals and textbooks more fluently. It will also help medical students preparing for an elective attachment in an English-speaking country, and medical professionals preparing to work in English or to take part in conferences conducted in English. The level of the book is intermediate to upper-intermediate. The model used is British English.

This book assumes you know, or are in the process of learning from your medical course, medical terms derived from Greek and Latin (such as *dyspnoea* and *uterus*). Our focus is on the ordinary English equivalents of those terms (such as *breathlessness* and *womb*), and on English words which are given a special meaning in medicine (such as *guarding* and *clubbing*).

This book is not intended to teach you about medicine although we have been careful to ensure that all the medical content is accurate. We have used a number of authentic sources including textbooks, reference works and common medical forms. We have also drawn on a corpus of Medical English developed by the Institute of Applied Language Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

You can use the book on your own for self-study, or with a teacher in the classroom, one-to-one or in groups.

How is the book organized?

The book has 60 two-page units. The first 46 are thematic, covering medical topics from **Health and illness** to **Research studies**. The remaining 14 units cover communication skills such as **Taking a history** and **Conference presentations**.

The left-hand page of each unit explains new words and expressions in contexts which make their meaning clear, and the right-hand page allows you to check and develop your understanding of the new language and how it is used, through a series of exercises.

There are six **appendices**, providing illustrations of parts of the body and types of medication, a useful list of medical abbreviations, and examples of verbs for instructions, lay terms and definitions that can be used when speaking to patients.

There is an **answer key** at the back of the book. Most of the exercises have questions with only one correct answer. But some of the exercises, including the **Over to you** activities at the end of each unit (see opposite), are designed for writing and/or discussion about yourself and your own experience.

There is also an **index**, which lists all the new words and expressions presented in the book and gives the unit numbers where they appear. It also indicates how the terms are pronounced.

The left-hand page

This page presents the key vocabulary for each theme or skills area. The language is introduced in a series of short texts, diagrams and tables, with each section indicated by a letter – usually A, B and C – and a clear title.

In addition to explanations of vocabulary, this page includes information about typical collocations (word combinations). In some cases, reference is made to websites where you can find further information on the text topic.

There are also **notes** on language points, for example where a particular grammatical form is associated with a word, or where the same word may have different uses.

The right-hand page

The exercises on the right-hand page give practice in using the words and expressions presented on the left-hand page. Some units contain diagrams or tables to complete; in others you may be asked to complete case notes or dialogues.

'Over to you' sections

An important feature of *Professional English in Use Medicine* is the **Over to you** section at the end of each unit. These activities provide you with the opportunity to use the new terms in relation to your own work and studies, or to express your own opinions.

Self-study learners can do this section as a written activity.

In the classroom, the **Over to you** sections can be used as a basis for discussion with the whole class, or in small groups. Learners can follow up by using the **Over to you** section as a written activity, for example as homework.

How to use the book for self-study

Check the **contents** page for the theme or communication skills area of interest to you. Read through the texts on the left-hand page. If you meet words which you consider important and which are not explained in the text, look at the index to see if they are explained in another unit. Do the exercises on the right-hand page and check your answers in the key. If you find you have made mistakes, go back to the left-hand page and read through the texts again. Some learners find it useful to keep a vocabulary notebook or vocabulary cards with the meaning of the new terms, common collocations and a sentence to show how they are used.

How to use the book in a classroom

Teachers can use this book to supplement more general course books. For most exercises, learners can compare answers together before they check the key. If they disagree or fail to find the right answer, teachers can provide feedback to help them find the correct answer. Some of the **Over to you** activities are suitable for role play.

We hope you enjoy using this book.

Professional English in Use

Professional English in Use Medicine is part of a new series of **Professional English in Use** titles from Cambridge University Press. These books offer vocabulary reference and practice for specialist areas of professional English. Have you seen some of the other titles available in the series?

