NEW CANADIAN ENGLISH · PHRASEBOOK · LESSON 1

Talking to Your Doctor

Sam has a sore throat and a fever. He visits a walk-in clinic for the first time. Learn what to say at the front desk and how to explain your symptoms to the doctor.

Part 1: At the Front Desk

"I'd like to see a doctor, please."
SAY IT OUT LOUD

= a polite way to ask for a doctor
"I'd like" = "I want" (more polite)

"I don't have an appointment."
SAY IT OUT LOUD

= you did not book a time
walk-in clinic = no appointment needed

"Here it is."
SAY IT OUT LOUD

= said when you hand something over
In Ontario, your health card is your OHIP card
Bring it to every visit

"This is my first visit."
SAY IT OUT LOUD

= you are a new patient
The clinic will make a new file for you

"What's the reason for your visit?"

= Why are you here today?
You will hear this question a lot

"I've had ___ for ___."
SAY IT OUT LOUD

= how long you have felt sick
I've had a headache for two days.
I've had a cough for one week.

"Please have a seat."

= please sit down and wait
"We'll call your name." = they will say your name when the doctor is ready

Part 2: With the Doctor

"What brings you in today?"

= Why did you come to the doctor?
Doctors often say this instead of "What's wrong?"

"It started ___ ago."
SAY IT OUT LOUD

= when the problem began
It started yesterday.
It started two weeks ago.

"Mild or severe?"
SAY IT OUT LOUD

mild = a little · severe = very bad
"It's pretty bad." also works

"It hurts when I ___." SAY IT OUT LOUD	*= when you feel pain* It hurts when I walk. It hurts when I breathe.
"Are you taking any medication?"	*medication = medicine* If not: "No, I'm not taking anything."
"I'm allergic to ___." SAY IT OUT LOUD	*= something that makes you sick* I'm allergic to peanuts. I'm allergic to cats.
"I'll write you a prescription."	*= a doctor's note to get medicine* Take it to a pharmacy (drugstore)
"How often should I take it?" SAY IT OUT LOUD	*= asking about your medicine schedule* once a day · twice a day · every 8 hours

No family doctor yet?
You can visit a walk-in clinic without an appointment. Bring your health card, and expect to wait.
Say: "I'd like to see a doctor, please."

Your turn: practise out loud

RECEPTIONIST ASKS How can I help you?	YOU SAY I'd like to see a doctor, please.
RECEPTIONIST ASKS Do you have your health card?	YOU SAY Yes, here it is.
DOCTOR LEE ASKS What brings you in today?	YOU SAY I've had a sore throat for three days.
DOCTOR LEE ASKS Do you have any allergies?	YOU SAY Yes, I'm allergic to penicillin.
DOCTOR LEE ASKS I'll write you a prescription.	YOU SAY How often should I take it?

Hear every phrase: **newcanadianenglish.com/doctor** · Watch the lesson: **youtube.com/@NewCanadianEnglish**

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