Unit 5

1st stage

# Pain

*Match these words for types of pain with their descriptions.*

a throbbing pain ……..**h** is strong and sudden

2 a sharp pain ………**b** travels fast along part of your body

3 a burning pain ……….**g** feels like fire

4 a stabbing pain ………**e** feels like something sharp is stuck into you

5 a shooting pain ………**a** feels like it is eating you

6 a dull ache ……….**c** is steady and not too painful

7 a gnawing pain ……….**f** comes and goes rhythmically

8 a cramping pain ……..**d** feels like a muscle is being squeezed

***• Language spot.***

Making comparisons

1 Match these examples with the rules below.

a It's much less sore than yesterday, thanks.

b They have more beds in the City Hospital.

c This is the strongest painkiller available without a prescription.

d Most women choose to have pain relief when giving birth.

e Last night the pain was more severe than this morning.

We use comparatives to say how things are different.

These pain killers are milder than those.

Complete the gaps using verbs from the article. You may need to change the tense.

1 She wears a mask to cover the area of burnt skin.

2 The pain in your legs should go when we treat your back problem.

3 She used breathing exercises and gas and air to manage the pain of childbirth.

4 A local an aesthetic will prevent you feeling any pain during the operation.

5 Breathing exercises help control the pain to some extent.

6 When you sustain a serious injury, you may not feel pain immediately.

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

1 People who are born unable to feel pain are unlucky.

2 Pain starts in the brain. \_\_

3 Chronic pain lasts longer than acute pain.

4 All drugs which stop pain work directly on the brain. \_\_

5- 'Phantom limb' pain felt by people who have lost an arm or leg. \_\_

Pain

Pain is a vital part of our body’s defenses, and without it we could not survive. Pain warns us what things are dangerous, and so helps us avoid damage to our body. If the body is already damaged, pain helps with healing because it makes us protect our injuries. Some babies are born with a rare condition that makes them unable to feel pain. They do not learn the lessons that pain teaches, and as a result suffer many fractures and infections. Pain so example to suffer serious injury but not feel any from wounds until after the battle. a damage Pain happens when nerve endings in our skin and our internal organs send messages through the central nervous system to our brain. The brain itself cannot feel pain. There are two types of pain-acute pain, which lasts a short time and is removed when the cause is cured, and chronic pain, which can last a lifetime and cannot usually be treated. Chronic pain must be managed using drugs or other methods. Drugs relieve pain in two ways. Some block the nerves messages and prevent them getting to the brain. Others change the way the brain receives the messages, reducing their effect. Many methods of controlling chronic pain without drugs have been developed These include hypnosis, acupuncture, massage, and electronic stimulation of nerves. Pain sometimes works in strange ways. It is possible, for example, to suffer a serious injury but not feel any pain soldiers in battle may not feel pain from wounds until after the battle. The opposite can happen too- patients who lose a limb can continue to feel pain in the limb long afterwards, even though it is missing. This 'phantom limb pain is an example of neuropathic pain, caused by damage to the remaining nerves.

Here are some basic questions to ask a patient when assessing pain. Match the beginning of each sentence to the end.

1 Where does **it hurt?** © 2 Does it **hurt all the time?** (f) 3 When did it **start hurting?** (e) 4 Does the pain **stay in one place or move around?** (g) 5 How much **does it hurt?** (b) 6 Can you **describe the pain?** (d) 7 Does anything make **the pain feel better?** (h) 8 What makes it **worse?** (a)