

COLLEGE OF NURSING

The First STAGE

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Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) was the founder of modern nursing. She dramatically improved conditions for soldiers in field hospitals, and educated people about the importance of hygiene. She saved thousands of lives and became very famous. She later started her own training college for nurses, and wrote many books on nursing.



Reading

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

- 1 The more responsibility you have, the higher your grade. _____
- 2 Nursing officers are the same as auxiliary nurses. _____
- 3 Students are paid less than auxiliary nurses. _____
- 4 A charge nurse is a man. _____
- 5 There are not many opportunities for British nurses to specialize. _____
- 6 Many nurses say that the job is rewarding, but the pay is low. _____

2 Number these jobs from the highest grade (1) to the lowest (4). Two of them are equal.

- a charge nurse _____
- b nursing officer _____
- c auxiliary nurse _____
- d sister _____
- e staff nurse _____

THE NURSING PROFESSION



One hundred and fifty years ago, nurses were unpaid, untrained, and unpopular, but then Florence Nightingale made nursing into a profession. The methods she introduced in the 1850s were copied all over the world, and now nursing is a career with a three- or four-year training, qualifications, grades, unions, and pensions.

In Britain, every nurse is on a grade. The grade depends on experience and skills, and each grade has different responsibilities and pay. On the bottom grades are unqualified auxiliary nurses who do the routine work on hospital

wards. On the top grades are nursing officers, who are usually administrators.

Auxiliary nurses are on the bottom grades, but student nurses get the lowest pay. However, students don't stay at the bottom of the pay scale forever. When they qualify, they start working on a middle grade. As they get experience, they can get promotion and move up the ranks to become staff nurse, then sister (charge nurse if a man), and perhaps eventually nursing officer.

Many nurses work shifts, and often they work overtime to earn more money. After basic training, many nurses choose to do

further study and become specialists. Nurses can specialize in many different fields – there are triage nurses working in Casualty, and psychiatric nurses who treat the mentally ill. There are health visitors who visit patients in their own homes, practice nurses working in GPs' surgeries, and midwives who deliver babies.

Many of them say they do not get enough pay and respect for the work they do. They say that the work is physically and mentally hard, that they work long hours and get very tired. But they also say that there are many great rewards which have nothing to do with money.

Find words in the article with these meanings.

- 1- exams and courses that you have taken **qualification**
- 2 -money that you will receive when you are old **pension**
- 3 - similar work that you have done before **experience**
- 4- special abilities **skills**
- 5- levels of pay **scale**
- 6 - extra hours you can work to learn more money **overtime**
- 7- study and practice to learn how to do a job **basic , training**
- 8- more advanced learning **further , studies**

Complete the sentences with the words below.

(a triage nurse , treatment , an initial assessment , a priority , life-threatening , waiting room , registration , cubicle)

1-take a seat in the **waiting room**

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

3 This nurse will make **an initial assessment** of your problem..

4- This helps decide who is **a priority**

5 - A patient with a **life-threatening** condition 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**

1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets in the Past Simple and Past Continuous tenses. Decide the order of the verbs first.

- 1 When he was working, he broke his arm.
(break, work)
- 2 My son _____ a firework when it _____
and _____ his hand. (explode, hold, burn)
- 3 I _____ of the car. My dad _____ the
door and _____ my fingers. (get out, break,
close)
- 4 My mum _____ in the bathroom. She
_____ and _____ her head. (hit, fall,
get dressed)
- 5 I _____ to music, when suddenly I
_____ a whistling in my ear and I _____
deaf. (hear, go, listen)
- 6 I _____ in the park, and a man _____ me
and _____ me. (punch, chase, run)

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

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.

