

Nursing - Intermediate English

Welcome to this comprehensive guide designed for healthcare professionals looking to enhance their English language skills. This e-book provides essential vocabulary, practical dialogues, and exercises specifically tailored for nursing contexts at the B1-B2 level. Develop confidence in both spoken and written medical English for effective patient care and professional communication.

 **por Med Fluency**



Introduction to Medical English for Nurses

In today's interconnected healthcare landscape, proficiency in English has become an essential skill for nursing professionals worldwide. Whether you're working in an international hospital, caring for English-speaking patients, or participating in global healthcare initiatives, strong English communication skills can significantly enhance your practice and career opportunities.

Nurses regularly encounter situations requiring English proficiency, including direct patient care (taking histories, explaining procedures, providing instructions), documentation (charting, medical records, care plans), and interdisciplinary teamwork (shift handovers, case discussions, conferences). Even in non-English speaking countries, medical literature, research, and technologies often use English terminology.

This guide aims to build your confidence in both spoken and written English for daily nursing contexts. By focusing on practical, real-world scenarios, we'll help you develop the vocabulary and communication skills needed to provide excellent care across language barriers.



Essential Nursing Vocabulary

Building a strong nursing vocabulary is the foundation for effective communication in healthcare settings. The following words represent essential terminology you'll encounter regularly:

People & Places

- **Patient:** Person receiving medical care or treatment
- **Caregiver:** Individual who provides assistance to patients
- **Nurse:** Healthcare professional trained to provide patient care
- **Doctor:** Medical professional who diagnoses and treats illnesses
- **Specialist:** Physician with expertise in a specific medical field
- **Ward:** Hospital section housing patients with similar conditions
- **Emergency Room (ER):** Area for urgent and immediate medical care
- **Intensive Care Unit (ICU):** Department for critically ill patients requiring constant monitoring
- **Clinic:** Facility providing outpatient medical services
- **Pharmacy:** Location where medications are prepared and dispensed
- **Operating Theater:** Room equipped for surgical procedures
- **Recovery Room:** Area where patients are monitored after surgery

Treatments & Equipment

- **Medicine:** Substance used to treat or prevent disease
- **Injection:** Administration of medication using a needle and syringe
- **Bandage:** Material used to cover and protect wounds
- **Dressing:** Sterile covering applied directly to a wound
- **Ointment:** Medicated preparation applied to the skin
- **IV Drip:** System delivering fluids or medication directly into a vein
- **Catheter:** Tube inserted into the body to drain or deliver fluids
- **Ventilator:** Machine that helps patients breathe
- **Monitor:** Device that displays and tracks vital signs
- **Prescription:** Written order for medication from an authorized provider
- **Medication:** Drug used for treatment or prevention of disease
- **Dosage:** Amount and frequency of medication administration
- **Side Effects:** Unintended reactions to medications
- **Wheelchair:** Chair with wheels for mobility

Actions & Assessments

- **Administer:** To give medication or treatment to a patient
- **Diagnose:** To identify a medical condition or disease
- **Examine:** To inspect a patient for signs of illness
- **Treat:** To provide medical care to address a condition
- **Monitor:** To observe and track a patient's condition
- **Vital Signs:** Key indicators of body function (temperature, pulse, etc.)
- **Temperature:** Measurement of body heat
- **Blood Pressure:** Force of blood against arterial walls
- **Pulse:** Rhythmic beating of the heart felt at arteries
- **Recover:** To return to normal health after illness
- **Discharge:** To release a patient from medical care
- **Refer:** To direct a patient to another healthcare provider
- **Admit:** To formally enter a patient into hospital care
- **Pain Scale:** Numeric system to assess pain intensity
- **Chronic:** Persistent condition lasting for a long time

Example Sentences Using Nursing Vocabulary

Practicing with complete sentences helps reinforce vocabulary in context. Here are common phrases you might use or hear in nursing practice:

Patient Assessment

- "I need to check your vital signs now."
- "On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your pain?"
- "Have you experienced any side effects from the medication?"
- "The doctor will examine your wound during morning rounds."

Treatment & Care

- "Please take this medicine twice a day after meals."
- "I'll change your dressing and clean the wound."
- "We need to monitor your blood pressure every hour."
- "The patient was transferred from the ICU to the general ward."

Additional useful phrases include: "Are you allergic to any medications?", "Let me schedule your follow-up appointment", "The surgeon will explain the procedure", and "Your test results should be available tomorrow."



Nurse-Patient Dialogue Example

The following dialogue demonstrates a typical interaction between a nurse and patient. Practice reading it aloud to improve your pronunciation and fluency:

Nurse: Good morning, Mr. Johnson. How are you feeling today?

Patient: Not very well. I've been having trouble sleeping because of the pain in my leg.

Nurse: I'm sorry to hear that. On a scale from one to ten, how severe is your pain right now?

Patient: It's about a seven. It gets worse when I try to move.

Nurse: Thank you for letting me know. I'll give you your pain medication soon. First, I need to check if you've had any allergic reactions to medications before?

Patient: No, I'm not allergic to anything that I know of.

Nurse: Good. I'll need to monitor your vital signs now. I'll check your temperature, blood pressure, and heart rate. Then we can discuss some strategies to help you sleep better tonight.

Patient: Thank you. When do you think the doctor will visit?

Nurse: Dr. Martinez usually does her rounds after 10 AM. She'll examine your leg and might adjust your treatment plan if necessary.

Questions about the dialogue:

1. What is the main complaint of the patient in this dialogue?
2. What pain level does the patient report on the scale of one to ten?
3. What three vital signs does the nurse mention checking?
4. What does the nurse ask about the patient's medical history?
5. Who will examine the patient's leg later, and when?
6. What does the nurse offer to discuss with the patient later?

Practice Exercises

Test your understanding with these exercises designed to reinforce the vocabulary and phrases you've learned:

Fill in the Blanks

1. The _____ will check your blood pressure and temperature during morning rounds.
2. Please take your _____ three times a day with food to prevent stomach upset.
3. The doctor wrote a _____ for painkillers that you can collect from the pharmacy.
4. After surgery, the patient was transferred to the _____ for close monitoring.

Matching Exercise

1. Bandage	a) Medicine taken for treatment
2. Prescription	b) Where urgent cases go
3. Medicine	c) Material to cover a wound
4. Emergency room	d) Instruction for medication

Open Question

Describe a common situation where a nurse needs to use English at work. Include at least five vocabulary words from this guide in your response (100-150 words).

Exercise Answers

Check your answers against the solutions provided below:

Fill in the Blanks

1. The **nurse** will check your blood pressure and temperature during morning rounds.
2. Please take your **medicine** three times a day with food to prevent stomach upset.
3. The doctor wrote a **prescription** for painkillers that you can collect from the pharmacy.
4. After surgery, the patient was transferred to the **intensive care unit (ICU)** for close monitoring.

Matching Exercise

- 1-c: Bandage - Material to cover a wound
- 2-d: Prescription - Instruction for medication
- 3-a: Medicine - Medicine taken for treatment
- 4-b: Emergency room - Where urgent cases go

Open Question (Sample Answer)

"A common situation requiring English occurs during patient admission. A nurse might need to take a detailed medical history from an international patient. The nurse would check vital signs while asking about any chronic conditions, allergies to medication, or past surgeries. They would explain hospital procedures and how to use the call button if the patient experiences severe pain. The nurse might also administer initial treatments and document everything in the patient's chart. Clear communication ensures proper diagnosis and treatment while making the patient feel comfortable despite language differences."