

Cambridge English for Nursing

Pre-intermediate

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

UNIT 2

Caring for patients after an operation

Complete exercises 1a–d below. These exercises practise the following grammar points:

- Quantifiers: *some/any*
- Adjectives: gradable and ungradable

For help with the exercises, you can find a *Grammar reference for Cambridge English for Nursing Pre-intermediate* at the following address www.cambridge.org/elt/englishfornursing.

- 1 a** Look at these sentences that a nurse or patient might say. Complete the sentences with *some* or *any*. In two questions, both *some* and *any* are possible.

- Are you in any pain?
- He doesn't want _____ visitors.
- Can I get _____ painkillers for you?
- Do you have _____ allergies?
- Would you like _____ pain relief?
- I'll get _____ tablets for you now.
- We haven't got _____ more Normal Saline solution.
- Can you get _____ more bags from the store room, please?
- Can I get _____ iced water for you?
- Please don't eat _____ food today.

- b** Check you understand the meaning of *gradable* and *ungradable* adjectives in the *Grammar reference* then match the gradable adjectives 1–10 with the ungradable adjectives with a similar meaning (a–j)

gradable adjectives

- cold / cool
- hot / warm
- tired
- good
- bad
- sad / down
- painful
- hungry
- big / large
- small

ungradable adjectives

- exhausted
- agonising
- terrible
- boiling
- huge / enormous
- tiny
- freezing
- miserable
- fantastic / excellent
- starving

C Look at the sentences an English speaking patient might say. Choose the sentence (A, B, or C) which best describes what the patient is saying. Use the phrases in bold to help you.

- 1 'Oh, I'm feeling **absolutely miserable**.'
 - A The patient is very cold.
 - B The patient is very hot.
 - C The patient is very sad. ✓
- 2 'Oh thank you for that nurse, I was **absolutely starving**!'
 - A The patient was very tired.
 - B The patient was very hungry.
 - C The patient was very cold.
- 3 'I feel **absolutely exhausted**, really drained, do you know what I mean, like?'
 - A The patient is very tired.
 - B The patient is very hungry.
 - C The patient is very cold.
- 4 'I hope I'm only left with a **really tiny** scar.'
 - A The patient is worried that the scar will be very painful.
 - B The patient is worried that the scar will be very big.
 - C The patient is worried that the scar will be very small.
- 5 'That ice cream was yummy, you know, **absolutely fantastic**!'
 - A The child patient thinks the ice cream was very cold.
 - B The child patient thinks the ice cream was very bad.
 - C The child patient thinks the ice cream was very good.
- 6 'Nurse! I'm sorry, can you help me? I'm **absolutely freezing**.'
 - A The patient is very tired.
 - B The patient is very hungry.
 - C The patient is very cold.
- 7 'I couldn't finish that meal. It was **absolutely enormous**.'
 - A The meal was too bad.
 - B The meal was too big.
 - C The meal was too cold.
- 8 **Nurse:** 'How is your leg?'
Patient: 'To be honest, the pain there's still **really agonising**.'
 - A The patient answers that his leg is still very painful.
 - B The patient answers that his leg is still very cold.
 - C The patient answers that his leg is still very hot.
- 9 'Is it me or is it **absolutely boiling** in here?'
 - A The patient is asking if the room is hot.
 - B The patient is asking if the room is cold.
 - C The patient is asking if the room is big.
- 10 'Have I got, like, a **really huge** bruise on my face?'
 - A The patient is asking if the bruise is painful.
 - B The patient is asking if the bruise is small.
 - C The patient is asking if the bruise is big.

d Look at these sentences that a nurse or patient might say. In each sentence, delete the word in *italics* which is incorrect.

- 1 Are you feeling *a bit* / *absolutely* cold after your operation?
- 2 Mrs Doyle says that the pain in her neck is still *a bit* / *absolutely* agonising.
- 3 Little Alex's dad feels *absolutely* / *very* terrible each time he has to leave.
- 4 Hmm. It still looks *absolutely* / *quite* sore – how does it feel?
- 5 Is it still *absolutely* / *a little* painful here?

Extension

Complete the dialogue between a nurse and Mrs Cole, a 68 year-old patient from Glasgow, Scotland. Mrs Cole has just had an operation. Use the language in Exercises 1a–d and your own experience and ideas.

Nurse: Hello? Mrs Cole? Do you know where you are?

Mrs Cole: Hospital

Nurse: That's right. You've had your operation. How do you feel?

Mrs Cole: I feel ...