

In an Emergency Room

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

<https://youtu.be/tG4TArGRKus>

Pre-listening activities

Match each health-related word with its definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. ambulance | a) feel sadness for a person's death, often by wearing black clothes |
| 2. blood | b) a person injured, or killed as a result of a crime or accident |
| 3. death | c) an instance of being injured |
| 4. die | d) a person trained to care for the sick, especially in a hospital |
| 5. disease | e) a disorder or affliction that produces specific symptoms |
| 6. doctor | f) a person who is qualified to treat people who are ill |
| 7. emergency room | g) an adjective describing a woman with a baby in her uterus |
| 8. give birth | h) have a baby |
| 9. injuries | i) a drug for the treatment or prevention of disease |
| 10. (take) medicine | j) a vehicle that takes injured people to hospital in emergencies |
| 11. mourn | k) uterus |
| 12. nurse | l) stop living |
| 13. patient | m) injury |
| 14. (take) a pill | n) a synonym of hospital |
| 15. pregnant | o) a device that makes a loud prolonged signal or warning sound |
| 16. save a life | p) a person who receives medical treatment |
| 17. siren | q) the red liquid that circulates in the arteries and veins of a body |
| 18. take care of someone | r) to stop someone from dying or being killed |
| 19. vaccine | s) keep someone safe and provided for |
| 20. victim | t) a small round mass of solid medicine for swallowing whole |
| 21. womb | u) the action of dying, also "the grim reaper" |
| 22. wound | v) a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against a disease |

- Have you ever been in an ambulance? When? Why?
- When was the last time you were in an emergency room?
- Where did your mother give birth to you? In a hospital? At home?
- Have you ever taken care of someone who was sick? Was it easy?
- Are you vaccinated?
- Have you ever been the victim of an accident or a crime? What happened?

You are going to listen to a song called “*In an Emergency Room*”.
Listen to the song and fill in the gaps with the vocabulary from the previous exercise.

You may have to conjugate verbs (like using the gerund) or nouns (like using the plural)

VERSE 1 In an emergency room a _____ lived to see another day
trying to fight off the _____
There was no _____ for what he had, no _____ or _____ that he could take
All the _____ could do was hold his hand

CHORUS In an emergency room people come and people go and maybe buy a few more days

VERSE 2 In an emergency room, another gangster with another gunshot _____
who had to go to surgery
The transfusion failed to save his life, so much _____ was pouring on the floor
The _____ mumbled: “*he has _____*”

CHORUS In an emergency room people come and people go, the _____ ' sirens call
The sirens mourn

BRIDGE But one day we'll meet again
So take good care of yourself and live, live your life the best you can

VERSE 3 In an emergency room a _____ girl was _____
Her waters broke, the time had come
And just as the baby left the womb, _____ looked down and told him with a smirk:
“*Have a good life, I'll see you again soon*”

CHORUS In an emergency room people come and people go
And _____ walks with us every step, of the way...

Post-listening activities

1. Apart from the vocabulary you saw in exercise 1, what other health-related words are in the lyrics? Do you know what they mean?
2. In the first chorus, what do you think the phrase “*buy a few more days*” means?
3. In the second chorus, what do you think the line “*the sirens mourn*” means?
4. This is a sad, depressing song with a moment of hope and joy in the line: “*but one day we'll meet again*”. Do you agree? Do you believe in life after death? What happens after we die?

In an Emergency Room

a song by Alan Smith Robertson, designed to practice the topic of “health”

<https://youtu.be/tG4TArGRKus>

Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 30 - 40 minutes

Pre-listening activities

Match each health-related word with its definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. ambulance | j) a vehicle that takes injured people to hospital in emergencies |
| 2. blood | q) the red liquid that circulates in the arteries and veins of a body |
| 3. death | u) the action of dying, also “the grim reaper” |
| 4. die | l) stop living |
| 5. disease | e) a disorder or affliction that produces specific symptoms |
| 6. doctor | f) a person who is qualified to treat people who are ill |
| 7. emergency room | n) a synonym of hospital |
| 8. give birth | h) have a baby |
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| 10. (take) medicine | i) a drug for the treatment or prevention of disease |
| 11. mourn | a) feel sadness for a person's death, often by wearing black clothes |
| 12. nurse | d) a person trained to care for the sick, especially in a hospital |
| 13. patient | p) a person who receives medical treatment |
| 14. (take) a pill | t) a small round mass of solid medicine for swallowing whole |
| 15. pregnant | g) an adjective describing a woman with a baby in her uterus |
| 16. save a life | r) to stop someone from dying or being killed |
| 17. siren | o) a device that makes a loud prolonged signal or warning sound |
| 18. take care of someone | s) keep someone safe and provided for |
| 19. vaccine | v) a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against a disease |
| 20. victim | b) a person injured, or killed as a result of a crime or accident |
| 21. womb | k) uterus |
| 22. wound | m) injury |

Teacher's note: Some students might not be willing to share personal information regarding their health or their medical history. Be sensitive to your students' desire for privacy and do not insist if they seem unwilling to share.

- Have you ever been in an ambulance? When? Why?
- When was the last time you were in an emergency room?
- Where did your mother give birth to you? In a hospital? At home?
- Have you ever taken care of someone who was sick? Was it easy?
- Are you vaccinated?
- Have you ever been the victim of an accident or a crime? What happened?

You are going to listen to a song called “*In an Emergency Room*”.
Listen to the song and fill in the gaps with the vocabulary from the previous exercise.

You may have to conjugate verbs (like using the gerund) or nouns (like using the plural)

VERSE 1 In an emergency room a **patient** lived to see another day
trying to fight off the **disease**
There was no **medicine** for what he had, no **vaccines** or **pills** that he could take
All the **nurse** could do was hold his hand

CHORUS In an emergency room people come and people go and maybe buy a few more days

VERSE 2 In an emergency room, another gangster with another gunshot **wound**
who had to go to surgery
The transfusion failed to save his life, so much **blood** was pouring on the floor
The **doctor** mumbled: “*he has died*”

CHORUS In an emergency room people come and people go, the **ambulances'** sirens call
The sirens mourn

BRIDGE But one day we'll meet again
So take good care of yourself and live, live your life the best you can

VERSE 3 In an emergency room a **pregnant** girl was **giving birth**
Her waters broke, the time had come
And just as the baby left the womb, **Death** looked down and told him with a smirk:
“*Have a good life, I'll see you again soon*”

CHORUS In an emergency room people come and people go
And **Death** walks with us every step, of the way...

Post-listening activities

1. Apart from the vocabulary you saw in exercise 1, what other health-related words are in the lyrics? Do you know what they mean?

surgery: the medical practice that treats injuries through the physical removal or repair of organs by involving cutting into the body

transfusion: the act of transferring donated blood

her waters broke: used to describe what happens when fluid suddenly comes from a pregnant woman's body because her baby will be born

2. In the first chorus, what do you think the phrase “*buy a few more days*” means?

It means: “postpone an inevitable death by a few days”

3. In the second chorus, what do you think the line “*the sirens mourn*” means?

Obviously sirens can't mourn, but they sound like a person crying or mourning

4. This is a sad, depressing song with a moment of hope and joy in the line: “*but one day we'll meet again*”. Do you agree? Do you believe in life after death? What happens after we die?

Students' own answers