



Comic Strip (10-15 mins)

Curriculum Links (KS2):

Science: Animals, including humans (upper KS2 only); Working scientifically

English: Reading and Comprehension

PSHE: Core Theme 1 - Health and wellbeing; Core Theme 3 - Living in the wider world

Learning Objectives for KS2:

All students will:

- understand that most common infections get better on their own through time, bed rest, liquid intake and healthy living.
- understand that if antibiotics are taken, it is important to finish the course.

Most students will:

- understand that antibiotics treat bacterial infections only.

This activity is suitable for school and community groups and can be found in the KS2 lesson plan “4.1 Treatment of Infection. Antibiotic Use and Medicine”. This activity will help participants understand correct uses of antibiotics, including when they should not be taken and why.



1. Amy went to school not feeling very well. She had a headache and a runny nose. When she arrived in the classroom she took a seat beside Natasha. She soon realised that Natasha was also not well.



Use the introduction in the KS2 lesson plan to discuss:

- Harmful microbes can make us ill. Ask participants about their own experiences of being ill, what was the illness, how did they feel, and what treatment did they receive? Did they go to the doctor or did they get something from the pharmacy?
- Explain that inside our bodies we have an immune system that fights harmful microbes. If we get plenty of sleep and eat properly, we keep our immune system strong and it keeps fighting the harmful microbes.
- Explain that sometimes, if a lot of harmful microbes get into the body, the immune system may need help. This is when we need medicine.
- Explain that different types of medicines are used to treat the symptoms of different infections e.g. cough remedies, painkillers, and medicines to reduce fever.

- Highlight to participants that antibiotics are special medicines that are used to treat only bacterial infections. Antibiotics make us better by killing the harmful bacteria that make us ill. Explain to participants that different antibiotics kill different types of bacteria therefore we should not use other people's antibiotics because they might not work; we should only take antibiotics given to us by a clinician.
- Explain that if we are advised to take antibiotics by a clinician it is important to take them as prescribed, for the number of days and at the correct times. If not, we may not kill all the harmful bacteria and have problems in the future.

Before you begin you will need:

- Background and lesson plans for KS2 [“4.1 Treatment of Infection. Antibiotic Use and Medicine”](#)
- Student handout 1 (SH1) and student handout 2 (SH2) from KS2 pack
- Teacher answer sheet 3 (TS3) for discussion points

Click here to access the resources for this activity for [KS2](#)

Use the following steps as a guide to implement this activity:

- Each section of the comic strip has a situation with a decision that needs to be taken. The words spoken by the decision maker are in italics to highlight them.
- Show each box to the participants (either all together SH1 and SH2) or as individual boxes on the white board or overhead projector, and discuss whether the decision maker has made the right or wrong choice.
- Use the discussion points within TS3 to stimulate a group discussion on whether the decision maker has made the right choice or not, and explain why.

Use the plenary or discussion questions to check participant's understanding after the activity is completed. Then complete action plan (within the [Beat the Bugs](#) pack).