15 Drugs and antibiotics – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
drug			
chemical reactions			
Antibiotics			
bacterial			
infections			
viruses			

Recall

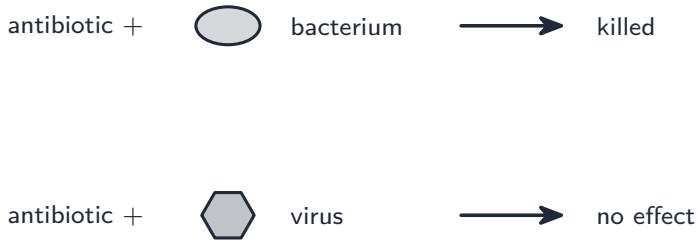
A **drug** is any substance taken into the body that changes its **chemical reactions**. Many drugs are medicines.

New ideas

Read these first, then do the Practice.

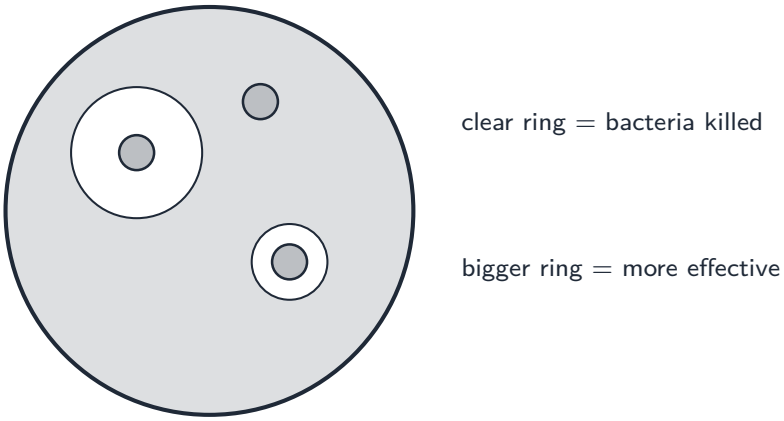
■ 1 Antibiotics

Antibiotics are drugs that treat **bacterial infections** – they kill bacteria or stop them growing. They have **no** effect on **viruses**, so they cannot cure a cold or the flu:



2 Testing antibiotics

To find which antibiotic works best, discs soaked in different antibiotics are placed on a plate covered with bacteria. A **clear ring** with no growth shows the antibiotic killed the bacteria:



Watch out: antibiotics kill *bacteria* only – they have **no** effect on **viruses**, so they cannot cure a cold or flu. On a test plate, a *bigger* clear ring means a *more* effective antibiotic.

Practice

Try these in order.

15.1 What is a *drug*? [1]

15.2 What do antibiotics treat? [1]

15.3 Why can't antibiotics cure a cold or the flu? [1]

15.4 On a test plate, what does a clear ring around a disc show? [1]

15.5 What does a bigger clear ring mean? [1]

15.6 Challenge. A doctor refuses to give antibiotics for a patient's cold. Explain why this is the right decision. [2]