

15 Antibiotic resistance – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

resistant

strain

viral

Recall

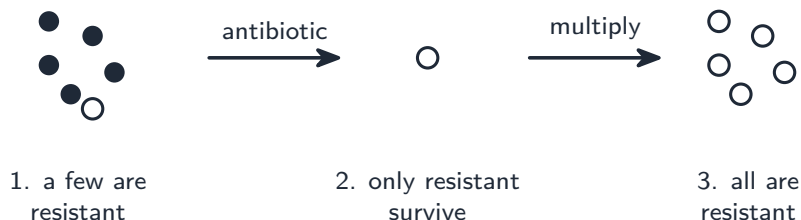
If antibiotics are overused, bacteria can become resistant – the antibiotic stops working.

New ideas

Read these first, then do the Practice.

■ 1 How resistance spreads

Some bacteria are **resistant** – the antibiotic does not kill them. They survive and multiply:



A resistant **strain** like **MRSA** can then spread.

■ 2 Slowing resistance down

- ✓ only use when really needed
- ✓ always finish the whole course
- ✓ never use for viruses (colds, flu)

- only use antibiotics when they are **really needed**;
- always **finish the whole course**;
- never use them for **viral** infections.

Watch out: resistance spreads by **natural selection** – the antibiotic kills the non-resistant bacteria, leaving the resistant ones to multiply. To slow it: only use antibiotics when needed, **finish the whole course**, and never use them for viruses.

Practice

Try these in order.

15.6 What does it mean to say bacteria are *resistant* to an antibiotic? [1]

15.7 Why do resistant bacteria become more common after an antibiotic is used? [2]

15.8 Name a resistant type of bacterium. [1]

15.9 Give two ways to slow down antibiotic resistance. [2]

15.10 Should you stop taking antibiotics as soon as you feel better? [1]

15.11 Challenge. Explain how a population of bacteria can become almost entirely resistant to an antibiotic. [3]