

Unit 9 Breaking bad news

Vocabulary from the book

A & E

beat an illness

beat around the bush

chances

curtains

days are numbered

dead on arrival

doom and gloom

fair chance

fighting fit

get over something

glimmer of hope

go into a coma

go into detail

go through the options

had it

have a lot on your plate

make it

not got a clue

odds

on a ventilator

pull through

reasonable understanding

regain use of

rough idea

RTA

six feet under

sketchy/patchy knowledge

soaked

stroke

sweat

take it (information) in

terrible shock

the big 'C'

time is up

tumour spreading

Additional vocabulary

likelihood

limited

possibilities

Exercise 1

Match the words in the two columns to make a common useful phrase from the unit.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1 fighting | a through |
| 2 fair | b illness |
| 3 glimmer | c sweat |
| 4 pull | d ventilator |
| 5 regain | e chance |
| 6 beat an | f is up |
| 7 beat around | g and gloom |
| 8 doom | h fit |
| 9 my time | i the bush |
| 10 soaked with | j use of |
| 11 on a | k a coma |
| 12 go into | l of hope |

Exercise 2

Match the abbreviations to the key words.

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1 DOA | a car accident |
| 2 A & E | b scan |
| 3 RTA | c emergency |
| 4 MRI | d strain |
| 5 MMR | e stroke |
| 6 RSI | f dead |
| 7 GUM | g vaccination |
| 8 FTND | h no prescription |
| 9 CVA | i normal birth |
| 10 OTC | j sexual disease |

Exercise 3

Put the following words and phrases into the correct column.

get over curtains time is up days are numbered had it make it beat it pull through

not going to recover	survive/recover

Exercise 4

Identify which one out of the following groups of words is the odd one out.

1	get over	pull through	make it	go through
2	odds	options	likelihood	chances
3	reasonable knowledge	sketchy knowledge	patchy knowledge	limited knowledge
4	options	chances	choices	possibilities
5	malignant tumour	stomach cancer	stroke	the big 'C'

Exercise 5

Fill the gaps with suitable words from the unit.

- Patient:** I am just so scared that you are going to give me bad news and tell me that my days are _____.
- Patient:** I haven't been sleeping well at all. I wake up three or four times a night feeling really hot and with my sheets _____ in sweat.
- Doctor:** Well, yes, it is going to be difficult over the next few months, but I do believe we can _____ through this together.
- Patient:** Well, I have a full-time job, four kids to look after, and of course, on top of all that, I have this illness dragging me down all the time.
Doctor: Mmm, it must be very difficult as you really do have a lot on your _____. What sort of support network have you got to help you out?
- Doctor:** Well, I understand that it must all be quite a shock for you at the moment, but there are quite a few ways in which we can deal with this. Would you like me to go through the _____?
- Patient:** Please don't beat around the _____, Doctor, what are my _____ of beating this disease?
- Doctor:** Well, you said that you have a _____ understanding of diabetes, which is a good start; could you tell me what you know?
- Doctor:** I do appreciate that this news has come as a terrible _____ to you but there is a lot that we can do to make sure that your quality of life is maintained.
- Doctor:** Well, the good news is that because we have found the tumour so early in its growth, it hasn't _____ to any other organs.

If you are having difficulty, here are the words for the exercise.

chances options reasonable spread pull soaked bush numbered plate shock