

30 I can describe medical advances 🎧

A revolutionary era in medical advances

In recent **decades**, we have witnessed radical changes in **conventional** medicine:

- Fifty years ago, **scanners**¹ did not exist. **Diagnostic** tools were **restricted** to **stethoscopes**² and basic x-ray machines.
- Until recent years, children were **prone to** certain infectious diseases, for which there was no effective **cure**. **Vaccines** have almost **eradicated** some of these **conditions**.
- In the past, if you needed a major operation, you would be **confined to bed** for weeks. Today many operations use less **invasive procedures**, requiring day surgery only.
- In the past, the **mortality rate** for patients with **organ** failure, such as heart, lung, or kidney failure, was 100 per cent. Today, **transplants** can allow patients to **resume** a normal life.
- The **survival rate** for many cancers has improved considerably over recent decades, due to the development of **chemotherapy** to treat the condition.



conventional
diagnostic

usual or traditional; not new or different. **convention** N.
used for finding out what physical or mental problem sb has. **diagnose** v.
diagnosis N.

restrict sth (to sth)
prone to sth
cure

limit the size, number, or amount of sth. **restriction** N.
likely to suffer from sth (also **accident-prone**).
a medical treatment that makes a sick person well again. **cure** v. **curable** ADJ. OPP **incurable**.

vaccine

a substance which is put into the blood and protects the body from disease (the process of giving **vaccine** is **vaccination** N). **vaccinate** v.
destroy or get rid of sth (bad) completely. **syn wipe sth out**.

eradicate sth
condition

a long-term illness or medical problem.

be confined to bed / a wheelchair

have to stay in bed / a wheelchair.

invasive
procedure

(of medical treatment) involving cutting of the body. **invasion** N. **invade** v.
a medical operation or investigation (**carry out / perform a procedure**).

organ
transplant

a part of the body that has a particular purpose, such as the heart or brain.
an operation in which a damaged organ is replaced with one from a **donor** (= sb who gives part of their body, blood, etc.). **transplant** v.

resume sth
chemotherapy

begin sth again after an interruption. **resumption** N.
the treatment of diseases, especially cancer, by drugs.

spotlight **rate**

A **rate** is a measurement of the number of times something happens within a period, e.g. the **mortality/death rate** is the number of people dying; the **survival rate** is the number of people continuing to live despite a serious illness.
*The **birth rate** rocketed.* = The number of babies born rose sharply.
*The **accident rate** plummeted.* = The number of accidents fell sharply.

1 Complete the table.

Noun	Verb	Adjective
	invade	
	cure	
	resume	xxxxxx
convention	xxxxxx	

Noun	Verb	Adjective
vaccine,		xxxxxx
diagnosis		
	transplant	xxxxxx

2 Write yes or no.

- 1 If a disease is wiped out, does it mean it has been restricted? _____
- 2 Does an organ donor receive an organ from someone else? _____
- 3 If you're prone to injury, are you more likely to be injured than most people? _____
- 4 If you have a disease which is diagnosed, does it mean you are better? _____
- 5 Is flu usually described as a medical condition? _____
- 6 Are we living in a technological era? _____
- 7 If your dentist takes your tooth out, is it usually an invasive procedure? _____
- 8 Has heart disease been eradicated in the world? _____
- 9 If something plummets, does it go down? _____
- 10 If the accident rate rockets, is that a good thing? _____

3 Match 1–10 with a–j.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 They have been doing research on the disease for a | a chemotherapy. |
| 2 There's a prize for the most important technological | b decade. |
| 3 After the operation, she was confined | c transplant. |
| 4 My sister is prone | d incurable. |
| 5 I needed to know the current survival | e to depression. |
| 6 The surgeons had to perform a delicate medical | f prone. |
| 7 His life was saved thanks to an organ | g rate. |
| 8 Cancer treatment is often in the form of | h to bed. |
| 9 It's her third cycling injury; she's really accident- | i advance. |
| 10 Sadly, this disease is thought to be | j procedure. |

4 Complete the dialogues.

- 1 A The brain disease meningitis C has been _____, I believe.
B Yes, it's been almost completely _____. That's brilliant news.
- 2 A In some areas, lung cancer treatment is _____ to non-smoking patients only.
B Yes, I think that may be true for patients needing an organ _____ as well.
- 3 A The government has a policy to _____ the elderly against flu.
B I know, but there's often a shortage of the appropriate _____ when it's needed.
- 4 A I'm not in favour of drug treatments; I just don't trust _____ medicine.
B Really? But there have been some fantastic _____ in drugs in the last few years.
- 5 A The mortality _____ in the UK has been falling since the 19th century.
B That's true. _____ rates have improved particularly among the very young.
- 6 A The surgeons had to _____ a highly invasive procedure on Jason.
B Yes, he was _____ to bed for ages, but he's recovering well, thank goodness.