

A2.4 Health and Illness

- 1** This topic sheet again begins with a short, light-hearted quiz. The questions should naturally be read out as part of the process of selection of options, which will give the native speaker the opportunity to model correct pronunciation. It might be necessary to clarify that "No way!" means "definitely not" as it is quite an idiomatic expression. Other vocabulary that may need explanation includes "teetotal", "social smoker", "bit of a strain" (not easy at all) and "without exception". Be careful as well with "Actually" as it is a 'false friend' for speakers of most other European languages. It is used in English simply to indicate that what follows is of interest (as here) or, to correct misapprehensions (e.g. "You think I'm a doctor, but actually I'm a teacher."). In most other languages, it means "currently" or "at the moment".
- 2** This analysis of the choices made by you and your partner is not meant to be taken seriously, but is designed only to stimulate discussion. So feel free to take issue with it and offer an alternative analysis.
- 3** This matching activity (matching the numbers and the letters) is used as a vehicle to present/practise vocabulary useful for describing symptoms of common complaints. The answers are 3-A, 4-B, 2-C and 1-D. To make the activity a little more challenging the word "pregnant" (for the lady suffering from depression) has been avoided, but obviously it will arise in discussion of the answers. There is quite a lot of difficult vocabulary here, so be ready to offer explanations or, encourage your partner to use a dictionary. You could model the correct pronunciation of these descriptions of symptoms by reading each aloud first then encouraging your partner to do so after you.
- 4** There follows freer discussion questions which should lead to an interesting discussion. Again, encourage your partner to check the meaning of "acupuncture" and "homeopathy" in a dictionary if necessary (although both are very similar in most European languages).
- 5** Writing this list of 'tips' should not be too difficult after all the preceding discussion. But you might like to help your partner by offering some helpful suggestions of your own.