

Background Questionnaire

Name: _____ Number: _____

1. Briefly describe any overseas experience (living, study, traveling in a foreign country).

2. What are your goals for participating in this overseas program?

3. Briefly explain your main reasons for taking this seminar.

4. How many times have you given a presentation in Japanese? _____

5. How many times have you given a presentation in English? _____

6. Please respond to the following statements using the scale below:

strongly disagree *disagree* *neutral* *agree* *strongly agree*
1 2 3 4 5

a. I feel shy around other people. _____

b. I enjoy talking with foreign people in English. _____

c. My nervousness makes it difficult for me to talk in public. _____

d. I like to meet new people. _____

e. Communicating in English is difficult for me. _____

f. Speaking English well is important to me. _____

g. Good English skills are necessary for success in my career. _____

h. I like to have fun with a group of friends. _____

i. I would enjoy working with foreign doctors in the future. _____

j. I hope to publish and present at international conferences. _____

Background Questionnaire 2

Name: _____ Number: _____

1. Briefly describe your experience up to now studying medical English through Kobe University.

2. Briefly describe your experience up to now studying medical English on your own.

3. In general, what are your biggest concerns with your medical English?

4. In general, what are your biggest concerns with your English during your internship?

5. Is there anything else you can share about medical English?

Seminar Information

Course: Intensive Medical English Seminar
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Goals:

The ultimate goal of the Intensive Medical English Seminar is to help medical students identify and address their English language needs in order to prepare for their learning experience abroad. The main theme of the instruction centers on strategies that students can use in order to prepare for their experience before they leave and also to continue to develop their English while abroad. Students receive instruction on specific strategies and recommended approaches relating to setting learning goals, targeting critical vocabulary and expressions, delivering medical presentations, intercultural communication, and keeping language learning notebooks. Students also engage in direct practice of specific strategies as well as prepare and deliver a short presentation in class on a medical issue they may encounter abroad. Course instruction and interaction takes place entirely in English.

Seminar Structure:

Session 1: Understanding Needs & Setting Goals (Week 1)

1. Introduction and seminar goals
2. Identifying situations where you will need English
3. Introduction of preparation strategies & learning goals

Session 2: Critical Language for Daily Communication (Week 1)

1. Daily life and emergency English
2. Communication with doctors and medical staff
3. Language for targeted health issues
4. Short presentation strategies

Homework: Prepare a presentation on a targeted health issue

Session 3: Short Presentations and Language Study (Week 2)

1. Small group presentation practice
2. Class presentations & feedback
-vocabulary, phrases, pronunciation

Session 4: Self-Study Strategies (Week 2)

1. Introduction of self-study strategies
2. Preparation of personal language learning notebooks
3. Open discussion

Expectations:

1. Bring dictionary, pen, paper, and handouts.
2. Speak only in English.
3. Actively engage in tasks, ask questions and complete assignments.
4. Support your classmates and communicate with your instructor.
5. Relax and enjoy your English.

EFL Medical Presentations

ACTIVITY: Connecting with Your Audience

Although you are speaking in a foreign language on a serious scientific topic, it is important to connect with your audience on a personal level. They will be more relaxed and focused on your presentation when you are relaxed and connected with them.

For this exercise, prepare to introduce yourself to an audience based on the following contents. Try to use the following strategies. Use the back of this page for making notes.

1. First write out what you want to say.
2. Identify and memorize important language, phrases, and expressions.
3. Put two or three words for each main point as reminders in your notes.
4. Practice again and again until you are talking naturally, not reciting memorized phrases.

Introduction, Part 1

Hello, thank you all for coming today. My name is _____. I am from _____, Japan. I am a medical student at Kobe University. It is very nice to have this opportunity to speak with you.

Introduction, Part 2 (Add two sentences to Part 1)

I am here to talk about why I decided to become a doctor. _____

Introduction, Part 3 (Add two sentences to Part 1 and 2)

In my future work as a physician, I hope to _____

Medical Study and Work Abroad: Getting Prepared

General Preparation Steps

1. Consider the following points as you prepare:
 - a. What are your goals for participating?
 - b. What does your university program expect from you?
 - c. What do your hosts expect from you?
 - d. What are your concerns? Which can be addressed?
 - e. What questions do you have... for your program, for your hosts?
2. Make a priority list of essential tasks that you need to accomplish before you go.
 - a. immunizations
 - b. clothing/packing
 - c. flight tickets
 - d. passport/immigration
 - e. travelers checks/credit card
 - f. emergency information/copies
 - g. travel guide
 - h. phrase book
 - i. contact lens, prescriptions, etc.
 - j. dental/health check-up
 - k. computer, internet access
 - l. email/program contact
3. Set a schedule of when you will accomplish those tasks.

Host Country and English Language Preparation Steps

1. Consider the following points as you prepare:
 - a. What situations will you need to use the language of your host country?
 - b. What situations will you need to use English?
 - c. How much time do you have to prepare/study before you go?
 - d. What cultural issues do you need to understand?
2. Host Country Language
 - a. For daily needs, you should be able to say...
 - i. Hello
 - ii. Excuse me/I'm sorry
 - iii. I don't understand
 - iv. Can you speak English?
 - v. Please
 - vi. Thank you
 - vii. Yes/No
 - viii. Help
 - b. What expressions will you need during your internship?
 - i. Basic greetings with patients & hospital staff
 - ii. Simple questions to patients?
 - c. Create a list of important expressions that you can refer to as necessary.
 - i. Where is the station, hotel, bathroom, etc.
 - ii. Could you call the police for me?
 - iii. Where can I get a taxi?
 - iv. Please take me to...
 - v. How much does this cost?
3. English Language
 - a. Make a list of vocabulary/expressions will you need for your internship.
 - i. Communicating with other doctors and hospital staff
 - ii. Communicating with patients
 - iii. Medical vocabulary/expressions related to local health issues/diseases
 - iv. Expressions to show you do not understand
 - v. Expressions to get clarification and confirmation of understanding
 - b. Memorize what you can, keep a handy list for others
 - c. Keep a small notebook or recorder handy to 'collect' new language
 - d. Keep an English Journal in your room to record and study new language
 - e. Have a good dictionary (E/J & J/E medical terms)
 - f. Communicate with your internship host about your English limitations

EFL Medical Presentations

Principles for Success

Think Long Term Development

Your successful involvement with the international medical community ultimately depends on your English skills- how well you can communicate and understand others in English. As you learn the language of medicine in Japanese, there is a parallel body of language of medical English. Building your knowledge of these terms and expressions is critical. Likewise, you need to be able to express your ideas in written and spoken form in English. This is a major task and one that needs to be seen as a marathon, not a sprint.

1. Read as much as you can and collect language while you do.
2. Look for useful vocabulary, expressions, and grammatical structures.
3. Focus on your personal areas of interest and expertise.
4. Develop a reasonably paced routine of active study and review.
5. Seek out opportunities to use your English

Remember the Goals of a Medical Presentation

The science is bigger than the scientist. Those attending your presentations are much less interested in you than they are in your work. You are not an actor, a professional emcee, or an entertainer. Your goal is to have your audience understand your work. Make sure that you include all critical information, organize the topics in a meaningful way, and deliver a comprehensible presentation.

1. Clearly, concisely, and accurately present your work; this is the most important goal.
2. Identify and organize the critical information you need to present.
3. Present main concepts and visual images with slides, explain them with more detail in your talk, and used handouts to summarize your presentation and provide more detailed explanations.
4. Rely on your notes as necessary and make sure you can read them smoothly.
5. Seek native speaker help to ensure accuracy.

Make a Personal Connection

Academic conferences are more than just sharing and gathering new scientific information. Networking and social interaction are important too. Connecting personally with your audience requires minimal English skills but can be helpful in delivering your messages.

1. Relax, be confident, and get excited about sharing your work.
2. 'Talk' to your audience at critical moments- the introduction and conclusion, especially.
3. Make eye-contact, smile, and don't rush.
4. Practice until it feels natural.
5. Have specific phrases ready to use.

Medical Dialogues

I. Some Troubling Symptoms

Patient: Good afternoon.

Doctor: Good afternoon. Have a seat. So, what have you come in for today?

Patient: Thank you. I'm feeling ill, I've got quite a bad cough, but I don't seem to have a fever.

Doctor: I see. How long have you had these symptoms?

Patient: Oh, I've had the cough for two weeks, but feeling ill just these past few days.

Doctor: Are you having any other problems?

Patient: Well, I've got a headache. I've also had a little bit of diarrhea.

Doctor: Do you produce any phlegm when coughing?

Patient: Sometimes, but it's usually pretty dry.

Doctor: Do you smoke?

Patient: Yes, a few cigarettes a day. Certainly no more than a half a pack a day.

Doctor: How about allergies? Do you have any allergies?

Patient: Not that I'm aware of.

Doctor: Does your head feel stuffy?

Patient: Yes, for the past few days.

Doctor: OK. Now let's have a look. Could you please open your mouth and say 'ah'?

II. Joint Pain

Patient: Good morning. Doctor Smith?

Doctor: Yes, please come in.

Patient: Thank you. My name is Doug Smith.

Doctor: What have you come in for today Ms Anders?

Patient: I've been having some pain in my joints, especially the knees.

Doctor: How long have you been having the pain?

Patient: I'd say it started three or four months ago. It's been getting worse recently.

Doctor: Are you having any other problems like weakness, fatigue or headaches?

Patient: Well I've certainly felt under the weather.

Doctor: Right. How much physical activity do you get? Do you play any sports?

Patient: Some. I like to play tennis about once a week. I take my dog on a walk every morning.

Doctor: OK. Let's have a look. Can you point to the area where you are having pain?

Doctor's Diagnosis

Physician

- Your test results have come in.
- I'm afraid the prognosis isn't good.
- You have a long road to recovery.
- We have several options to discuss.
- The blood test came back negative.
- The transfusion was a success.
- It looks like you're ready to go home.
- I'd like to keep you here over night.
- We'll know more in a few days.
- You're not in the clear yet.
- We've ruled out diabetes.
- I'm hoping to get to the bottom of this soon.

Patient

- I don't understand what this means.
- Am I going to need surgery?
- Is it good news or bad?
- When will the tests results come in?
- How long do I have to stay in the hospital?
- What is the success rate?
- Are they going to run more tests?
- Is this a common problem for people my age?
- I'd like to discuss other options.
- I'm going to get a second opinion.

Sample Conversation

Doctor: Hi Jessica. How are you feeling today?

Patient: *A bit better.*

Doctor: That's good to hear. Are you still feeling nauseous?

Patient: *No, I haven't felt sick to my stomach since you switched my medication.*

Doctor: Great. Say, your test results came in this morning.

Patient: *It's about time. Is it good news or bad?*

Doctor: I guess it's a bit of both. Which do you want first?

Patient: *Let's get the bad news over with.*

Doctor: Okay. It looks like you're going to need surgery to remove the tumour from your leg. After the operation you're going to have to stay off your feet for at least three weeks. That means no soccer.

Patient: *I was afraid you were going to say that.*

Doctor: Now for the good news. The biopsy shows that the tumour is benign, which means it's not cancerous. We're going to take it out anyway just to be on the safe side.

Patient: *Wow, that's a load off my mind. Thanks Doctor.*

Doctor: Don't get too excited. We still need to get to the bottom of all of this weight loss.

Patient: *I've probably just been so worried about this stupid lump.*

Doctor: These things often are stress related, but we're still going to do a few blood tests just to rule a few things out.

Patient: *Things like what? Cancer?*

Doctor: Actually, I'm thinking more along the lines of a food allergy.

III. A Physical Examination

Doctor: When did you last come in for a physical exam?

Patient: I had my last physical two years ago.

Doctor: Have you had any other exams recently? Blood work, an EKG or an ultra-sound?

Patient: Well, I had a few X-rays at the dentist's.

Doctor: How have you been feeling in general?

Patient: Pretty well. No complaints, really.

Doctor: Could you roll up your left sleeve? I'd like to take your blood pressure.

Patient: Certainly.

Doctor: 120 over 80. That's fine. You don't seem to be overweight, that's good. Do you exercise regularly?

Patient: No, not really. If I run up a flight of stairs, it takes me a while to get my breath back. I need to get out more.

Doctor: That's a good idea. Now, I'm going to listen to your heart. Now, breathe in and hold your breath. Please pull up your shirt, and breathe deeply... Everything sounds good. Let's take a look at your throat. Please open and say 'ah'.

Patient: 'ah'

Doctor: OK. Everything looks good. I'm going to order some blood work and that's about it. Take this slip to the front desk and they'll arrange an appointment for the tests.

IV. Pain that Comes and Goes

Doctor: How long have you been having this pain?

Patient: It started in June. So for more than five months now. My stomach hurts after some meals, but not always.

Doctor: You should have come in earlier. Let's get to the bottom of this. Have you changed your eating habits during this period?

Patient: No, not really. Well, that's not true. I'm eating the same foods, but less. You know, the pain seems to come and go.

Doctor: How strong is the pain exactly? On a scale of one to ten, how would you describe the intensity of the pain?

Patient: Well, I'd say the pain is about a two on a scale of one to ten. Like I say, it's not really bad. It just keeps coming back...

Doctor: How long does the pain last when you get it?

Patient: It comes and goes. Sometimes, I hardly feel anything. Other times, it can last up to a half an hour or more.

Doctor: Is there a type of food that seems to cause stronger pain than other types?

Patient: Hmmm ... heavy foods like steak or lasagna usually brings it on. I've been trying to avoid those.

Doctor: Does the pain travel to any other parts of your body - chest, shoulder or back? Or does it remain around the stomach area.

Patient: No, it just hurts here.

EFL Medical Presentations

Language for a Presentation

1. State your purpose; for example:

'I'm going to talk about...'

'This morning I want to explain...'

2. Present an outline of your talk; for example:

'I will concentrate on the following points: First of all... Then...'

'This will lead to... And finally...'

3. Make it absolutely clear when you move to another point. For example:

'The next point is that ...'

'OK, now I am going to talk about ...'

'Right. Now I'd like to explain ...'

'Of course, we must not forget that ...'

'However, it's important to realise that...'

4. Summarize the main points again, using phrases like:

'To sum up...'

'So, in conclusion...'

'OK, to recap the main points...'

5. Restate the purpose of your talk, and say that you have achieved your aim:

'I think you can now see that...'

'My intention was ..., and it should now be clear that ...'

6. Check if the audience is still with you.

'Does that make sense?'

'Is that clear?'

7. Thank the audience, and invite questions:

'Thank you. Are there any questions?'

8. Prepare for misunderstanding and mistakes

'I am having trouble understanding your English...'

could you please repeat what you said?'

could you please say that again a little slower?'

could you say that same idea in a different way?'

'Please let me clarify. Are you saying that...'

'Thank you for your patience with my English.'

'Perhaps we could talk about this later.'