



Antibiotics Fact or Fiction Quiz – Answer sheet

Antibiotics can kill viruses – False

Antibiotics can only be used to treat bacterial infections due to the different structures of bacteria and viruses. Antibiotics work by targeting specific parts of the bacteria, e.g. the cell wall, or only parts of the ribosome that are found in bacteria, and therefore are only effective against bacterial infections.

You don't need to finish a course of antibiotics if you are feeling better – False

Taking an antibiotic incorrectly increases the risk of the bacteria in your body developing antibiotic resistance. If you do not complete the course the infection may also not be completely killed. You should always take antibiotics as instructed by the nurse or doctor and ensure you complete the course.

Not taking the correct dose (one or two capsules a day instead of three) means you get less antibiotic in the area of the infection. These lower concentrations can encourage the multiplication of resistant strains.

Left over antibiotics can be saved for use at a later date – False

You should not have any leftover antibiotics if you complete the course as prescribed, however if you do, take the unwanted antibiotics to a pharmacy to be disposed of safely.

You should not share antibiotics – True

Each antibiotic that is prescribed is personal to you and specific to your type of infection. Therefore antibiotics taken for one infection, will probably not work for another.

Taking antibiotics weakens your immune system – False

Most antibiotics do not negatively affect your immune system, so do not reduce your ability to fight off future infections. Antibiotics are designed to target bacteria, by directly killing them or slowing their growth.





The body does not become resistant to antibiotics. It is the bacteria that become resistant through genetic mutations.

Healthy people carry antibiotic resistant bacteria – True

Antibiotic resistant bacteria can be carried by healthy or ill people. Antibiotic resistant bacteria can be passed on easily to others through contact (sneezes and coughs), everything we touch or even our poo!

It is everyone's responsibility to help control antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic use in animals is causing most of the antibiotic resistance seen today – False

The use of antibiotics in animal feed to promote growth has been banned in the EU since 2006, due to concerns about increasing antibiotic resistance.

Increasing scientific evidence suggests that antibiotic resistance in humans is primarily the result of antibiotic use in people, rather than in animals.

Antibiotic use in hospitals is causing most of the antibiotic resistance seen today – False

Hospitals are not responsible for the high antibiotic use in humans. In 2013, 79% of all antibiotics consumed were prescribed in the community, by your GP.

Only 15% were prescribed by hospitals, with 6% from other community prescribers such as dentists.

Washing my hands helps to reduce antibiotic resistance – True

Hand washing is the most important thing we can do to prevent the spread of infection. Antibiotic resistance bacteria can spread from person to person just as any other type of bacteria would. This includes through skin to skin contact and by touching surfaces where bacteria are present.

Antibiotic resistant bacteria can spread more easily in hospitals, as many patients are having complex treatments which require many different staff to be involved. Hand washing is therefore particularly important in hospitals and other healthcare settings.





e-Bug: Antibiotics Quiz

Student Handout 1

