

Listening skills practice: War's silver lining – exercises

Listen to the talk about medical advances in World War I and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

Preparation

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

cause	develop	treat	suffer
	undergo		extract

1. Scientists are still trying to _____ a cure for cancer.
2. After the initial consultation, the patient will have to _____ a series of tests.
3. Many infections are easy to _____ with antibiotics.
4. Flu viruses _____ a lot of illnesses in winter.
5. The surgeon managed to _____ the bullet from the soldier's leg.
6. It's increasingly common for people in big cities to _____ from asthma and allergies.

1. Check your understanding: ordering

Write a number (1–5) to put these topics in the order that they are mentioned in the talk.

.....	paramedics
.....	anaesthetic
.....	World War I
.....	X-rays
.....	blood transfusions

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the sentences with one, two or three words.

1. The speaker says that the First World War caused many deaths and injuries but also had some _____.
2. New weapons used in the war included _____, tanks and poison gases.
3. Twice as many people _____ in the war as died.
4. She goes on to say that X-rays were used widely and helped doctors detect fragments of _____ buried in tissue.
5. Stretchers were used to carry _____ out of the battlefield.
6. Paramedics, who are able to _____ in the field, were first employed in the First World War.
7. Another innovation was a machine for anaesthetising patients to make them _____ before operations.
8. One of the greatest medical breakthroughs was _____, allowing many lives to be saved at the end of the war.

Discussion

Have you benefited from any of the medical advances developed in World War I?