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| Articles: With Illnesses and Body Parts |

**With Names of Illnesses**

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| **the + illness** | **a / an + illness** | **(the) + plural illness** | **Ø + illness** |
| the flu  the plague | a cold  a hernia  a headache  a heart attack  an ulcer  a stroke  an earache  a fever  a sore throat / neck etc.  a *head* injury / a *spinal*  *cord* injury etc. | (the) mumps  (the) measles  (the) hiccups  (the) chicken pox  *“the” is optional* | diabetes  rabies  herpes  AIDS  pneumonia  malaria  arthritis  cancer  diarrhea  tuberculosis  *liver* disease/*heart* disease etc. |

**With Body Parts**

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| **the + singular or plural parts** | **(the) + fluids or large areas *“the” is optional*** |
| the brain  the ears  the liver  the kidneys | (the) blood  (the) mucous  (the) skin  (the) lips |

*Fill in the blanks with A/AN, THE or Ø.*

It’s important to take care of yourself to avoid getting sick, especially in the winter. Even a healthy person can get \_\_\_\_\_flu or \_\_\_\_\_ cold. \_\_\_\_\_ flu can affect \_\_\_\_\_ stomach, \_\_\_\_\_ throat, and even \_\_\_\_\_ ears. If a person has one of these illnesses, they may suffer from \_\_\_\_\_ earache or \_\_\_\_\_ fever. These problems are usually not serious, but older people can sometimes develop \_\_\_\_\_ pneumonia. This illness affects \_\_\_\_\_\_ lungs and makes breathing difficult.

Some serious illnesses are more common in certain countries than in others. For instance \_\_\_\_\_ malaria usually occurs in tropical countries. It is caused by mosquitoes that infect \_\_\_\_\_\_blood. Some types of \_\_\_\_\_cancer and \_\_\_\_\_ heart disease occur more frequently in wealthy countries where people eat a lot of fatty, processed foods. Doctors recommend regular exercise to keep \_\_\_\_\_ heart healthy and \_\_\_\_\_ muscles strong.