

Medicine discussion questions

IELTS Graduation Unit 4

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Debate them with your partners, starting with any you like (ones which are easy to discuss, ones you have strong opinions about, ones you'd like to hear opinions about, etc).

Useful phrases for discussing the statements

- In my (personal) experience,...
 - It is (widely) believed/ assumed that...
 - Some/ Many/ The (vast) majority of people think that/ claim that...
 - It is (often) claimed that/ said that...
 - I can see both sides/ There are things to be said on both sides (of the argument). On the one hand...
 - With some reservations, I'd (probably) say that...
 - It could be said that.../ There could be a case for saying that...
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- One of the first duties of the physician is to educate the masses not to take medicine.
 - There is far too much pill popping in modern society
 - It's often better to ask your neighbourhood pharmacist rather than your doctor
 - You should take treatment of minor complaints into your own hands
 - You should go to the doctor after any dizzy spells
 - The side-effects mean that it is best to avoid all medicines if at all possible
 - A physician should be an advisor, not someone who orders you to do things
 - Malpractice litigation has a bad influence on medical care
 - Television commercials can be a useful source of medical information
 - Over-the-counter medicines can also have bad side effects, but people assume they are safe because you don't need a prescription
 - Informed patients can be a powerful force for change when it comes to medical practices

When your teacher stops you, share an opinion you agreed on and see what the class thinks.

Ask about any statements above you are not sure about, would like to hear opinions on, etc, discussing them as a class each time.

Do the same with these statements about chocolate

- Chocolate could boost concentration
- Chocolate makes us feel better
- Chocolate is good for stress
- Chocolate does not give you spots
- Chocolate makes you live longer
- Chocolate is nutritious
- Chocolate boosts the appetite
- Chocolate helps us digest milk
- Chocolate can make you more alert