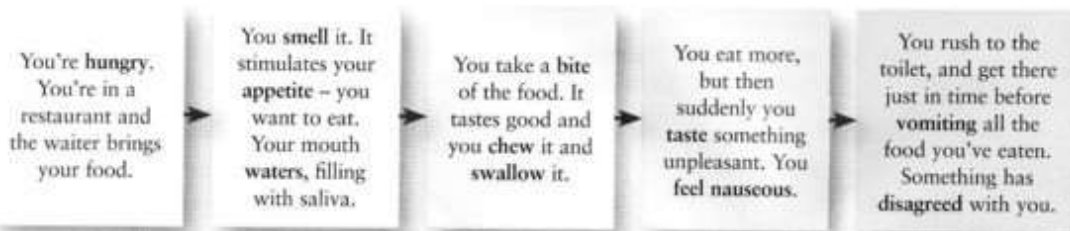


4 Functions of the body

A Eating



B The five senses

In addition to **smell** and **taste**, the senses include **sight** (or vision), **hearing**, and **touch** (also called **sensation** or **feeling**). To ask about the senses, doctors use the questions:

What is your	sight hearing	like?
Is your	sense of smell sense of taste	normal?

To ask about the sense of touch, doctors talk about **numbness** (loss of sensation):

Have you noticed any numbness (in your fingers or toes)?

C Other functions

Function	Verb	Noun
speaking	speak	speech
walking	walk	gait
breathing respiration	inhale / breathe in / take a breath in exhale / breathe out	breath
urination micturition	urinate micturate pass urine / pass water	urine
defecation	defecate pass faeces / pass stools	faeces stools
menstruation	menstruate have a period	(menstrual) period (monthly) period

When taking a history, doctors can ask:

Do you have any	trouble difficulty problems	walking? breathing? passing urine? with your speech?
	pain	when you breathe in?

When auscultating a patient's lungs, the doctor tells the patient:

Take a deep breath in, hold your breath, then breathe out completely.

D Less common functions

There are some things we do less often. When we are hot, we **sweat**. When we are nervous, we **shake**. When we are sad, we **cry**.

Doctors can ask:

Do you	sweat shake	more than usual?
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4.1 Match the symptoms (1–5) to the questions (a–e), using your medical knowledge.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1 dysuria | a What is your breathing like? |
| 2 dysphagia | b Do you have any pain when you pass water? |
| 3 diplopia | c Do you have any difficulty with your speech? |
| 4 dysphasia | d Do you have any trouble swallowing? |
| 5 dyspnoea | e Is your vision normal? |

4.2 Patients are describing symptoms of the conditions shown in brackets. Complete the sentences. Look at C and D opposite to help you.

- 1 I've got pain and in both feet. (peripheral neuropathy)
- 2 I'm having difficulty solid food. (oesophageal stricture)
- 3 I have a lot of problems (prostatic hypertrophy)
- 4 I've been more than usual, even when it's not hot. (hyperthyroidism)
- 5 I've noticed that my hands when I'm not using them. (Parkinsonism)
- 6 I have trouble when I climb the stairs. (left heart failure)

4.3 Complete the sentences. Look at A, B, C and D opposite to help you.

- 1 When I eat solid food, I have to (bite/chew) it for a long time before I can (swallow/eat) it.
- 2 Do you have any pain when you (pass/have) stools?
- 3 I have no (taste/appetite) and I've lost five kilos in the last few weeks.
- 4 When did you last (have/pass) a period?
- 5 The garden is full of flowers, but my (sense/sensation) of smell has disappeared and I can't enjoy the perfume.
- 6 Take a deep (breathe/breath) in.

Over to you



You think a patient may have diabetes. Think of five questions you can ask the patient to investigate further. Try to use the question types presented in this unit.