

# General Vocabulary

## DESCRIBING PAIN

**symptom** – a sign or expression of a bigger problem, disease, or illness

The baby's fever and sore throat was a symptom of the flu.

**jam** – when a joint has been crushed or smashed in, usually describes a finger or toe

Akona jammed her finger into the cabinet door.

**to break** – when a bone is split or cracked

He broke his leg playing soccer.

**swollen** – a part of the body that is larger than its regular size

Akona's finger is swollen.

**sharp pain** – a pain that is quick and strong (intense) in one area of the body

I felt sharp pains in my stomach and had to go to the hospital.

**dull pain** – a pain that is small and steady

My headache was a dull pain for two days.

**sore** – tender or sensitive part of the body

Her throat was sore when she had a cold.

Her muscles were sore the day after a lot of exercise.

## TAKING MEDICINE

**peroxide** – a liquid that helps kill bacteria and germs, usually in a brown bottle

Akona's aunt poured peroxide on her cut.

**ointment** – a cream that helps keep bacteria out of cuts and also helps heal it faster

Akona's aunt put ointment on her cut.

**band-aid** – the sticky bandage used to cover cuts or scrapes

I need a band-aid for my paper cut, please.

# General Vocabulary

**ibuprofen** (or Advil) – a common medicine used for small pains or aches  
Akona took ibuprofen for her swollen finger.

**dose** – the amount of medicine a patient should take  
The correct dose was 2 pills every 2 hours.

**overdose** – when a person takes too much medicine  
The patient overdosed because she took six pills in one day instead of two.

**tablespoon** (tbsp) – a small amount of liquid, larger than a teaspoon

**teaspoon** (tsp) – a small amount of liquid



**side effects** – any type of reaction caused by taking a medicine  
One side effect of the medicine Benadryl is feeling tired or sleepy.

## EMERGENCY

**ambulance** – the car with sirens that takes people to the hospital quickly  
The ambulance rushed my neighbor to the hospital when he had a heart attack.

**911** – the telephone number for fast help when people need the police, fire fighters, or ambulance  
“Quick! Call 9-1-1!”

**emergency room** – the area of a hospital for help right away  
Her leg was bleeding a lot, so her family took her to the emergency room.

**choke** – when food or another object is stuck in the throat and a person can't breathe  
“Someone help! She's choking!”

# General Vocabulary

## ACCIDENTAL AKONA

A beginner VOCABULARY STORY

Last night, Akona washed the dishes. Akona needed a new sponge. When she reached for it, she **jammed** her finger. It hurt so much! A plate dropped in the sink. The dish broke and cut her palm.



“OWW!! Someone, help!” Akona waited for her aunt, uncle, or sister to come. Her aunt ran into the kitchen.



“Aunt Peti, help me. I jammed this finger, and cut that hand.”

“What are we going to do with you? Let me see the cut. Oh, it’s not bad.” Aunt Peti smiled. “I’ll call our doctor for an **appointment** tomorrow; your finger might be **broken**. Let’s put **peroxide** and **ointment** on your cut.”



Soon, Akona had a bag of ice on her **swollen** finger and a **band-aid** on her cut. She drank **ibuprofen** for pain and swelling. The night ended OK for Akona. Her little sister finished cleaning and Akona watched TV.



# General Vocabulary

## ACCIDENTAL AKONA

An intermediate VOCABULARY STORY

Last night, it was Akona's turn to wash the family's dinner plates. The dishes clicked against each other. Reaching for a new sponge in the cabinet just below the sink, she **jammed** her right **index finger**. With pain shooting through her right hand, she dropped a plate with her left. The dish shattered and cut her palm.



"OWW!! Someone come help, quick!" Akona jumped up and down while she waited for her aunt, uncle, or sister to rush into the kitchen. It was her aunt who came.



"Aunt Peti, help me. I jammed this finger, and cut that hand."



"What are we going to do with you? Let me see the cut. Oh, it's not so bad." Aunt Peti smiled, and then continued, "Tomorrow morning, I'll call our doctor to get you an **appointment** for your finger; it might be **broken**. But now, let's put **peroxide** and **ointment** on your cut."



Thirty minutes later, Akona had a bag of ice on her **swollen** finger and a **band-aid** on her cut. She drank **ibuprofen** and most of her pain and swelling went away. Overall, the night turned out quite nice for this seventeen year old. Her little sister, Hinimona, had to finish washing the dishes while Akona watched TV in the living room.



# General Vocabulary

## ACCIDENTAL AKONA: After-reading activities

### CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Directions: Put the following events in the correct order. Write the numbers 1 – 6 in the spaces provided.

\_\_\_\_\_ Akona's little sister washed dishes while Akona watched TV.

\_\_\_\_\_ Aunt Peti put peroxide and ointment on Akona's cut.

\_\_\_\_\_ Akona jammed her finger.

\_\_\_\_\_ Aunt Peti made an appointment for Akona.

\_\_\_\_\_ The family ate dinner.

\_\_\_\_\_ Akona shouted for help.

### WRITING ACTIVITY

Why do you think Akona and her little sister Hinimona live with their aunt and uncle?

Create the story of how this happened.

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## Additional Resources

**Picture Stories** – The Center for Adult English Language Acquisition has put together a site with 8 picture stories. Each story provides a different medical scenario and accompanying activities.

[http://www.cal.org/caela/esl\\_resources/Health/#Dose](http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/Health/#Dose)