

# New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

## Health for the world?

New Internationalist Easier English  
Ready Upper-Intermediate Lesson



# This lesson:

**Speaking:** discussion

**Vocabulary:** categorise

**Reading:** research

**Grammar focus:** conditionals

**Listening:** answer questions

**Writing:** a formal letter

## Discuss these questions:

1. How good is healthcare in the world today? And in your country / countries?
2. How does inequality affect health?
3. Which countries have the best healthcare?
4. What can we do to improve health and healthcare in the world?

# Words and phrases: are these related to health problems or solutions?

health insurance

financial crisis

corruption

majority world

life expectancy

vaccination

pharmaceutical companies

IMF debt

disease prevention

indigenous people

# Read to find out:

easy: [http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Bad\\_medicine](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Bad_medicine)

difficult: <http://www.newint.org/features/2012/11/01/healthcare-keynote/>



# Grammar focus: match these half sentences

- 1) If Leela feels ill, ...
  - 2) If she is too tired or ill to work, ...
  - 3) The hospital gets subsidies from the government
  - 4) But Indians will only believe this ...
  - 5) Now people are talking again about healthcare for all – ..
  - 6) Sachs says that if we had a minimal healthcare package, ..
  - 7) But it would be more possible ..
- a) if it starts to happen.
  - b) it would cost around \$50 – 60 for each person for a year.
  - c) she asks one of Preeti's children for a paracetamol.
  - d) if earnings were higher and more equal.
  - f) her son takes her to a doctor for the poor.
  - g) as if it were a new idea.
  - h) if they promise to keep a few beds for the poor.

Now match the completed sentences  
to these conditional structures:

**Zero conditional (facts, if=when):**

If + present tense, + present tense

**1<sup>st</sup> conditional (future possibility /choices):**

If + present tense, + future simple (will + infinitive)

**2<sup>nd</sup> conditional (improbability / impossibility):**

If + past tense, + conditional tense (would +  
infinitive)

(there are other conditionals too, of course)

In pairs, complete these sentences  
with information from the text:

- 1) If doctors told poor people to get treatment,  
....
- 2) If poor people have to pay for healthcare, ..
- 3) If the Indian government spent more money  
on healthcare than on arms, ....
- 4) If people get stressed by not feeling they are  
part of society, ..
- 5) If societies were more equal, ...



In the text, they talk about healthcare in Cuba – discuss possible answers to these questions:

1. What is so good about healthcare in Cuba?
2. How does Cuba have money for this healthcare?
3. Do some people (the elite) get better (preferential) treatment?
4. What difficulties / challenges does healthcare in Cuba still have?

# Now listen to find the answers:

<http://www.newint.org/blog/radio-ni/2012/10/30/podcast-john-kirk-cuba-healthcare/>



# Writing:

In groups, write a formal letter to the health minister in your government:

- **use some of the phrases we categorized**
- **use some conditional sentences**
- **use some ideas from the reading**
- **use some ideas from the listening**
- **proof-read the letter carefully**