



# WHEN I GROW UP - DOCTOR

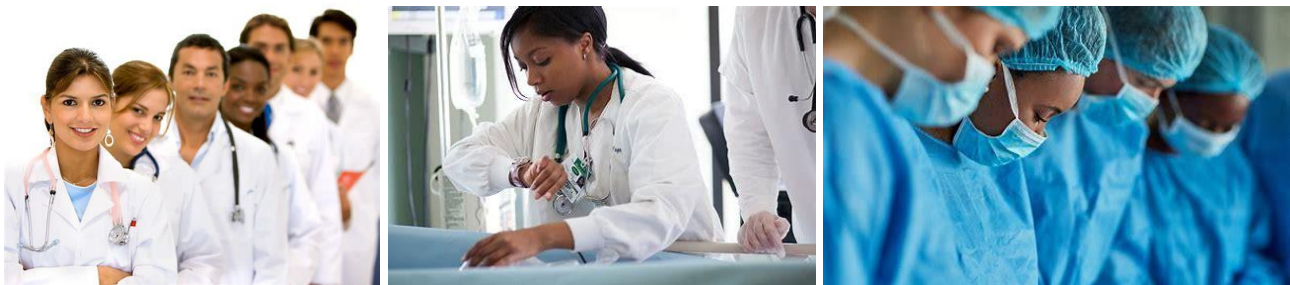
## WHAT IS A DOCTOR?

Sometimes when you get sick, all you need is to rest and drink plenty of fluids. Other times, you need to see a doctor, a specially trained and licensed medical professional. The type of doctor that children see is called a paediatrician, while an adult usually goes to a primary care physician.

## THE JOB OF A DOCTOR

You might visit a doctor because you haven't been feeling so great lately. After the nurse has run some basic tests on you, the doctor will ask you a few questions about your symptoms and examine you. Next, the doctor will make a diagnosis, which is when the doctor uses test results and information about your symptoms to determine what illness you have.

Sometimes, your diagnosis is easy, like a cold or ear infection. In these cases, the doctor might write you a prescription for some medicine and send you home. Other times, the doctor may have to work with other types of doctors to come up with a diagnosis and figure out what will make you better. Doctors are a bit like detectives. They use science knowledge, clues and ask lots of questions to find the answer to a medical problem.



## OTHER TYPES OF DOCTORS

Doctors work in many different types of settings - not just in doctor's offices. For instance, they may work in emergency rooms, specialty clinics, and even laboratories. They also specialise in different areas so they can become experts in that area. Doctors who specialise in skin problems are called dermatologists and doctors who you will see at your local surgery are called General Practitioners. You might hear them called GPs. Doctors who do operations on people are known as surgeons.



## HOW CAN I BECOME A DOCTOR?

To be a doctor you must have GCSEs (exams taken at 16) in maths, English, physics, chemistry and Biology. Then, you need to complete A-levels which you study for two years and take exams at the end. Most universities want you to have chemistry A-Level and might want you to have A-Level biology, maths or physics.



It takes hard work and a long time to be a doctor. In the UK, this is what is involved in becoming a registered doctor that can practice in a UK hospital. You need to complete:

- A five-year degree in Medicine, which has official recognition by the General Medical Council.
- A two-year foundation course of general training in a clinical environment.
- Between two to three years of core medical training (CMT) or Acute Common Care Stem (ACCS) programme - which is part of the first stage of speciality training.
- Between four to seven years of specialist training, depending on whether you pursue a chosen area of medicine to work in.

**Fact:** Did you know, women weren't allowed to be doctors many years ago. Elizabeth Blackwell (3 February 1821-1910) was the first female doctor in the United States and in Europe.

She was born in Bristol, England, on 3 February 1821. When she was young, her family moved to America. At first, she was a teacher. She became a doctor in 1865 in England. She founded her own hospital in New York. In 1874, she started a medical school for women in London with Sophie Jex-Blake and promoted women's rights.

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FIND OUT MORE...

[PSHE KS1 / KS2: Proud to be a doctor - BBC Teach](#)

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Medical\\_doctor#:~:text=Kids%20Encyclopedia%20Facts%20A%20medical%20doctor%20%28also%20called,They%20usually%20hold%20a%20college%20degree%20in%20medicine.](https://kids.kiddle.co/Medical_doctor#:~:text=Kids%20Encyclopedia%20Facts%20A%20medical%20doctor%20%28also%20called,They%20usually%20hold%20a%20college%20degree%20in%20medicine.)

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/garrett\\_anderson\\_elizabeth.shtml](https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/garrett_anderson_elizabeth.shtml)

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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. What do you call a doctor who treats children?
2. Where don't doctors usually work?
3. What subjects would help you be a great doctor?
4. What was the name of the first female doctor?
5. Which year did Elizabeth Blackwell become a doctor?