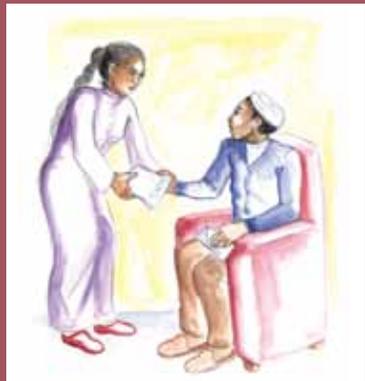


Faisal Gets the All Clear



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A health reader for Entry 2
ESOL students

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Bowel or colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK. Over 16,000 people die from it each year. In its early stages of development, there are often no symptoms, but if it is caught early enough, it can be cured.

From the age of 60, men and women are automatically invited to take part in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. Regular screening can reduce the risk of dying by 16%.

For more information ring the free NHS Bowel Cancer Helpline on 0800 7076060 or visit www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk



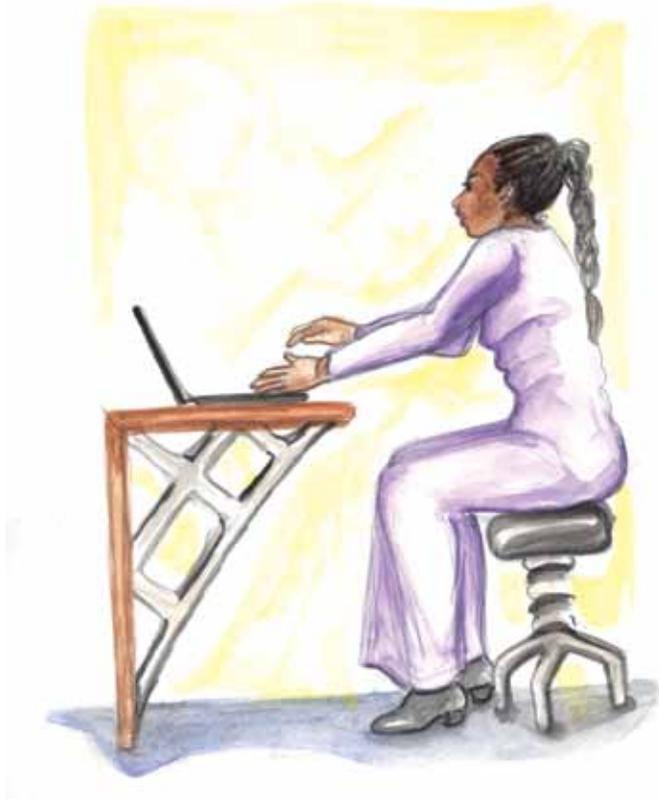
Faisal is a widower. He has just turned 60. He lives with his daughter Layla, his daughter's husband Jamal and their two children Asha and Omar.



One day, Faisal gets a letter.
He shows it to his daughter Layla.
“I’m not sure what this is about,” he says.
“Can you explain it to me please?”



Layla reads the letter.
“It’s inviting you to take part in the free bowel
cancer screening programme, dad,” she says.
She looks at the leaflet that comes with the letter.
“They screen men and women from the age
of 60. You do the test at home.”



Layla goes on the Internet to find out more about bowel cancer. She visits the NHS cancer screening website. She discovers that 16,000 people in the UK die from it each year and that catching it early helps to save lives because it can be treated.



One week later, Faisal receives a test kit. He's a bit worried about doing the test. "I can explain the instructions to you, dad," says Layla. Faisal decides it is really important to do the test because it could stop cancer. Afterwards, he pops it in the post.



Two weeks after sending back the test, Faisal receives another letter. It says the result is abnormal and that he needs to see a specialist nurse. He is invited to attend the nearest bowel cancer screening centre the following week.

Faisal is very worried.



Jamal drives Faisal to the outpatient's clinic at The Royal London Hospital and Layla comes inside with him. Faisal is feeling a bit scared. They sit in the waiting area until Faisal's name is called, then they go in to see the nurse.



The nurse talks to Faisal about the test result and asks him about his health. “We would like to do a colonoscopy so we can check inside the bowel for any problems,” she says. “We’ll give you a sedative first and the procedure will only take about 45 minutes.”



Faisal goes back to the clinic with Layla. He has to sign a consent form before he has the test. A nurse checks his blood pressure and heart rate, then a needle is inserted in the back of his hand so that he can be sedated. Faisal feels really sleepy.



After the test is over, Faisal rests and has a cup of tea with Layla. The doctor comes to talk to them. “During the test we did a biopsy and took some tissue samples,” he says. “We’ll get the results back in a couple of week’s time.”



When Faisal feels ready to go home, Layla rings up Jamal. “Can you come and get us?” she says. He comes to collect them in the car. Faisal feels OK, but is a bit tired. He just wants to get back home.



Faisal waits nervously for the next appointment. He goes back to the clinic to get the result of the test. "I'm pleased to say everything is normal," says the doctor. "There is no sign of cancer. You won't need another test for 2 years." Faisal is so happy. "I've got the all clear!" he says.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the first letter about?

2. Where is the screening test done?

3. Why is Faisal worried?

4. What is a colonoscopy?

5. Does Faisal have bowel cancer?

Phone Call to the NHS

- ☞ Hello, is that the Bowel Cancer Helpline?
- ☞ Yes, Jane speaking. How can I help?
- ☞ I'd like to get some information.
- ☞ Go ahead
- ☞ Can you tell me how old you have to be to have bowel cancer screening?
- ☞ We offer people screening from the age of 60.
- ☞ Do I have to ask my GP for a test?
- ☞ No, you will automatically be sent a letter.
- ☞ Where do I go for the test?
- ☞ You do the test yourself at home. We send you a kit. Then you post it back to us.
- ☞ How long does it take to get the result?
- ☞ Usually about two weeks.

Glossary

abnormal	unusual, not normal
all clear	a sign that tells you everything is OK
be sedated	use drugs to calm someone down
biopsy	the removal of tissue from the body for testing
bowel	a long tube that carries waste out of the body
cancer	a serious disease of the cells of the body
colonoscopy	an examination of the inside of the bowel using a tube with a tiny camera attached
consent form	a form you sign to agree to something
procedure	a medical operation
screen	to test or examine someone to see if they have an illness
sedative	a drug that makes someone relax
tissue sample	a small amount of cells or skin from the body
treated	given medical care or drugs for an illness
widower	a man whose wife has died

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