

Zenith Goes to the Clinic



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A health reader for Entry 2
ESOL students

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Are you a woman over 50?

You will soon be invited for breast screening.

This ESOL reader encourages you to go for breast screening when invited.

To find out more or if you are worried about a change in your breasts, speak to your GP.



One day, Zenith receives a letter. The letter is asking her to come for an appointment at the breast screening clinic.



Zenith shows the letter to her husband Ahmed. She feels very nervous. Ahmed says, "Your health is important. You must go."



Zenith shows the letter to her friends Amina and Sahra. Amina says, "I went for breast screening last year. It's important to go and it only takes 30 minutes." Sahra says "My cousin had a lump in her breast. It was cancer. She died because she didn't go to see her doctor. You must go."



Zenith goes to the hospital for her appointment. She finds the breast screening clinic and goes in through the door. She feels very nervous.



A very friendly, female receptionist is behind the desk. "Hello, can I help you?" she says smiling at Zenith. Zenith shows her the letter.



Zenith goes into a cubicle and draws the curtain.
She takes off her top and puts on the
dressing gown provided.



“Would you like to come through
Mrs Begum?” says the nurse.
“Can I ask you a few questions?”
She writes down Zenith's answers on a form.



“Please can you take off your dressing gown and stand here? Thank you,” says the nurse.

She positions her on the equipment.

“It may feel a bit strange at first,” she says
“but it won’t take very long.”



The nurse goes behind a glass screen and turns on the x-ray machine. It only takes a few seconds to screen her breast. The nurse repeats the procedure for the other breast.



Zenith gets dressed. She smiles at the receptionist.
“You’ll receive a letter with the results in a few weeks,” says the receptionist. “Thank you very much. Goodbye,” says Zenith.



A few weeks later, Zenith gets a letter with the results. It says she is clear, there are no problems. Zenith feels very happy. She shows the letter to her husband, Ahmed.



Zenith's friend Fatima is worried. She has received a letter from the breast screening clinic. She shows it to Zenith. She is feeling very nervous. "I went for breast screening last year," says Zenith. "It only takes 30 minutes. You must go because it can save your life."

Comprehension Questions

1. What is Zenith's letter about?

2. What does Zenith's husband say?

3. How long does breast screening take?

4. What kind of machine is used?

5. Does Zenith have breast cancer?

Dialogue At the Hospital

- ☾ Hello, can I help you?
- ☽ I've got an appointment for breast screening.
- ☾ Come this way... Put this gown on in the cubicle.
- ☽ Shall I take my top off?
Where shall I leave my clothes?
- ☾ Yes, take it off and leave your clothes there.
- ☽ Where shall I stand?
- ☾ Stand here please.
- ☽ Will it hurt?
- ☾ No. It is a little uncomfortable.
- ☽ Will it take long?
- ☾ Only about a minute each breast.

Glossary

abnormal	not normal
breasts	a woman's chest
cancer	an illness where abnormal cells grow in the body
cell	the smallest unit of an animal
clinic	a place where you can go for health advice
cubicle	a small private space
dressing gown	loose clothing, a bathrobe
equipment	a machine or tools
lump	a swelling found in or on the body
nervous	excited or easily upset
positions	to arrange or place the body
procedure	a way of doing something
results	information you get from a test
screening	testing or examining someone to see if there is anything wrong with them
strange	unusual or uncomfortable
swelling	something that is larger than normal

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