



THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY PRESS

# English for Health Sciences I

*Second Edition*

Supong Tangkiengsirisin, Ph.D.



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# English for Health Sciences I



Photocopying instead of using books  
is destroying intellectual creativity.

# **English for Health Sciences I**

*Second Edition*

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Language Institute

Thammasat University

Thammasat University Press

2017

Supong Tangkiengsirisin.

*English for Health Science I.*

1. English language--Medical English.
2. Readers--Medicine.
3. English language--Paragraphs.
4. English language--Rhetoric.
5. English language--Spoken English.

PE1127.M4

ISBN 978-616-314-340-2

ISBN (ebook) 978-616-314-343-3

ลิขสิทธิ์ของรองศาสตราจารย์ ดร.สุพงศ์ ตั้งกีียงศิริสิน  
สงวนลิขสิทธิ์

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ฉบับพิมพ์ครั้งที่ 2 เดือนสิงหาคม 2560

จำนวน 1,100 เล่ม

ฉบับอิเล็กทรอนิกส์ (e-book) ตุลาคม 2560

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จัดพิมพ์โดยสำนักพิมพ์มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์

ท่าพระจันทร์: อาคารธรรมศาสตร์ 60 ปี ชั้น U1 มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์

ถนนพระจันทร์ กรุงเทพฯ 10200 โทร. 0-2223-9232

ศูนย์รังสิต: อาคารโภมบริหาร ชั้น 3 ห้อง 317 มหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์

ตำบลคลองหนึ่ง อำเภอคลองหลวง จังหวัดปทุมธานี 12121

โทร. 0-2564-2859-60 โทรสาร 0-2564-2860

<http://www.thammasatpress.tu.ac.th>, e-mail: unipress@tu.ac.th

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จัดจำหน่ายโดยบริษัทชีเอ็ดดูเคชั่น จำกัด (มหาชน)

เลขที่ 1858/87-90 ถนนบางนา-ตราด แขวงบางนา

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ราคาเล่มละ 230.- บาท



# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	(9)
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	(11)
<b>Course Plan</b>	(12)

<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>About Health Science</b>	1
Starter		1
Input		1
Comprehension Check		3
Vocabulary Check		4
References		6
Listening		6
Language Focus & Writing		7
Speaking		20
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Dental Health</b>	25
Starter		25
Input		25
Comprehension Check		27
Vocabulary Check		28
References		29
Listening		30
Language Focus & Writing		31
Speaking		47

<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>A Second Opinion</b>	<b>48</b>
Starter		48
Input		48
Comprehension Check		50
Vocabulary Check		52
References		54
Listening		55
Language Focus & Writing		56
Speaking		73
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Human Organs: Organ Retention</b>	<b>74</b>
Starter		74
Input		74
Comprehension Check		77
Vocabulary Check		78
References		79
Listening		80
Language Focus & Writing		81
Speaking		94
<b>Unit 5</b>	<b>Food and Health</b>	<b>95</b>
Starter		95
Input		95
Comprehension Check		98
Vocabulary Check		100
References		101
Listening		102
Language Focus & Writing		103
Speaking		113

**Unit 6 Fighting the Diseases 114**

Starter	114
Input	114
Comprehension Check	116
Vocabulary Check	117
References	118
Listening	119
Language Focus & Writing	120
Speaking	131

**Unit 7 Medicinal Herbs 134**

Starter	134
Input	134
Comprehension Check	137
Vocabulary Check	138
References	140
Listening	141
Language Focus & Writing	142
Speaking	149

**Bibliography 151****Tapescripts 155**



# Preface

Based on the English for Specific Purposes syllabus, *English for Health Sciences* was specially customized to be used as the core textbook for EL 211 (English for Health Science 1), offered by the Language Institute, Thammasat University. In addition, this textbook would be suitable for any academic course focusing on the use of English in health sciences. The main purpose of this textbook, as well as that of the course, is to expose students to the English language involving major areas in health sciences. The users of this course book should be able to improve their integrated skills necessary for the understanding and production of English typically used in the study and research related to this particular field.

*English for Health Sciences I* consists of seven units focusing on a wide range of topics in health sciences and extensive language skill practice. Each unit is divided into eight sections, which cover both theoretical and practical aspects of language learning. Beginning with reading comprehension practice (i.e. *Starter*, *Input*, *Comprehension Check*, *Vocabulary Check*, and *References*), each unit aims to motivate students to think about a specific topic in health science while familiarizing them with a set of vocabulary items related to the topic. Furthermore, this initial part of the chapter is meant to sharpen students' analytical reading skills particularly comprehending academic passages and identifying references. Contextual clues, identifying main ideas, finding details, and drawing inferences and conclusions are also included in this section.

The subsequent section is for aural practice where students will hear a talk on the topic pertaining to the chapter and attempt questions that evaluate their listening skill. This section is followed by *Language Focus & Writing*, which provides explanations, illustrations, and exercises regarding selected lexical, syntactic, and rhetorical elements useful for writing skill development.

**(10)**

Paragraph writing is also emphasized in this section, where students can enhance their expository writing which is a foundation for their future, more advanced research writing. Then, the final section of each unit is dedicated to oral skill development. This section provides language patterns and expressions generally used to convey a particular rhetorical function. A speaking task is assigned at the end of this section.

With all the comments and feedback from the former users of this book, both the teachers and the students, the earlier versions of this book were developed into the present form. *English for Health Sciences I* has become more complete and should be appropriate for sharpening all the language skills related to health sciences.

**Supong Tangkiengsirisin**

2004



# Acknowledgements

First, my heartfelt appreciation goes to Associate Professor Pratin Pimsarn (Ph.D), former Director of the Language Institute, Thammasat University, who gave me the opportunity to create this textbook and kept encouraging me to bring it to this final form.

Also, my special thanks go to Mr. Matthew Miklas, who edited and proofread this textbook to ensure its perfection. His invaluable comments made this book more complete and suitable for the teaching of the course *English for Health Sciences I*.

Finally, thanks to Assistant Professor Tanom Tiensawangchai for his help and an insight into how to compile an English textbook for health sciences.



# Course Plan

Unit	Reading & Listening	Language Focus	Writing	Speaking
1	About Health Science	Subject-verb agreement Compound Sentences Parallelism	Paragraph Development	Introductions in academic presentations
2	Dental Health	Adverbial Clauses Gerunds	Writing instructions	Giving instructions
3	A Second Opinion	Defining Prefixes Suffixes Adjectives with –ing and –ed	Writing a paragraph of definition	Defining
4	Human Organs: Organ Retention	Forming compound nouns Passive Voice Physical and Functional Descriptions	Writing a paragraph of description	Describing

Unit	Reading & Listening	Language Focus	Writing	Speaking
5	Food and Health	Modals indicating possibility, necessity and advisability  Giving examples	Writing a paragraph of exemplification	Giving examples
6	Fighting the Diseases	Relative Clauses  Comparing similarities and contrasting differences	Writing a paragraph of comparison and contrast	Comparing and Contrasting
7	Medicinal Herbs	Classifying	Writing a paragraph of classification	Classifying

Unit  
**1**

# About Health Science

## STARTER

**Directions:** Discuss the following questions with your teacher or classmates.

1. What are the major causes of illnesses and injuries?
2. What do you do when you are ill or injured?
3. What does “health science” involve?
4. Whose work is related to health science?
5. How useful is health science to people’s health?

## INPUT

**Directions:** Read the following passage and respond to the questions as directed.

### ***Health Science***

Health science is the discipline of applied science which deals with human and animal health. There are two parts to health science: the study, research, and knowledge of health and the application of that knowledge to improve health, cure diseases, and understand how humans and animals function. Research builds on the pure sciences of biology, chemistry, and physics as well as social sciences (for example medical sociology).

### ***Historical overview***

The foundations for the health science fields are as old as the human race. Humans have always been in need of solutions to address illness, injury, and various health related issues such as childbirth. With modern technology 10 and the backing of the pure sciences, the scientific accuracy of these fields has greatly improved. Nevertheless, many cultures have continued to use various herbs and other culturally specific solutions to help solve health problems that may or may not be backed by any scientific support.

### ***Health delivery***

15 There are a large number of health professions. The terms medicine or biomedicine, and medical doctor or M.D. refer to dominant conventional practices in the West. There are a wide range of traditional areas of health science. The most common areas are: medicine, nursing, midwifery, and various forms of therapy to supplement the healing process and 20 restore proper activity (e.g. recreational, physical, speech, and respiratory). Health science includes both the study and application of preventing and curing human diseases and disorders. Medical doctors include physicians and surgeons. There are many different branches of medicine; the other health care professions also have specialties or focus on specific 25 populations or settings of care. Public health studies the effect of environmental factors such as available health care resources on the health of the general population, often focusing on particular populations, such as mothers and children. Dietitians educate people about proper nutrition, particularly specific dietary needs of populations such as people with diabetes, 30 breastfeeding women, and people with celiac disease. Other less common medical areas include first aid.

Dental health has grown in importance in recent decades making dentistry a major field of health sciences. Counseling, hospice care, home care, nutrition, medical social work, alternative medicine, pharmacology, and toxicology are 35 all considered part of health science.



Veterinary medicine is the health science dedicated exclusively to the care of animals. Veterinary medicine is involved in preventing and curing animal diseases and disorders, inspecting animal originated food (like milk and meat) and animal husbandry.

40 **Contemporary themes**

Because health science deals with human life, issues of medical ethics, an important area of ethics, arise frequently. Medical ethics includes questions on topics such as a patient's right to privacy. Euthanasia, abortion, human cloning, stem cell research and genetic engineering

45 are especially controversial issues directly related to health science.

(Retrieved May 8, 2002, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health\\_science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_science))

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

**Directions:** Using the information in the INPUT, choose the correct answer for each of the following questions.

1. Which of the following is NOT true about health science?
  - a. It is an applied science.
  - b. It concerns both human and animal health.
  - c. It can help people live in better health.
  - d. It is related to pure sciences only.
2. Medical sociology is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.

a. pure sciences	c. physics
b. social sciences	d. research works
3. Health science \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. has long been in existence
  - b. is not involved with childbirth
  - c. can never become more accurate
  - d. is mainly based on the study of herbs
4. The word “nevertheless” (in the second paragraph) can be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.

a. thus	c. however
b. otherwise	d. similarly

5. All of the following are professions involving health science EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. nurse
  - b. midwife
  - c. physician
  - d. professor
6. Public health focuses on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the effects of diseases on the general population
  - b. the availability of resources for particular populations
  - c. the environmental factors that influence population growth
  - d. the provision of health care for poor mothers and children
7. Dietitians help people in terms of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. food
  - b. weight
  - c. emergency
  - d. rare diseases
8. Veterinary medicine is studied by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. those who use animals in farming
  - b. those who like keeping animals as pets
  - c. those who produce medicine from animals
  - d. those who are interested in animals' health
9. Medical ethics mainly involves \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. human moral behavior
  - b. human rights to live and die
  - c. alternative ways of birth
  - d. alternative ways of death
10. The passage above primarily \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. discusses the importance of health science in research
  - b. provides an overview of health science and its branches
  - c. explains why health science has been subdivided into different branches
  - d. describes the diseases that can be cured by the application of health science

## VOCABULARY CHECK

A. *Directions: Match the words on the left with their meanings on the right.*

_____ 1. discipline	A. preciseness
_____ 2. foundations	B. traditional
_____ 3. accuracy	C. doctors

_____ 4. dominant	D. add
_____ 5. conventional	E. mercy killing
_____ 6. midwifery	F. farming
_____ 7. supplement	G. basic principles
_____ 8. disorders	H. more powerful
_____ 9. physicians	I. area of knowledge
_____ 10. specialties	J. illnesses
_____ 11. husbandry	K. jobs that people know a lot about or have a lot of experience of
_____ 12. euthanasia	L. the skill of a specially trained nurse, usually a woman, whose job is to help women when they are having a baby

**B. Directions: Complete the following sentences using the words given.**

abortion	breastfeeding	conventional	discipline	disorder
dominant	euthanasia	midwifery	specialties	toxicology

1. The young man is suffering from a rare genetic \_\_\_\_\_; blindness has genetically been passed down from his father to him.
2. Dr. Viboon's and Dr. Jitra's \_\_\_\_\_ are nutrition and pharmacology respectively.
3. A mother should make sure she eats only wholesome food while \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is practiced so that a woman can deliver a baby.
5. The researcher specializes in \_\_\_\_\_; she studies different types of poisons and their effects.
6. Even with the consents of most relatives of the terminally ill, \_\_\_\_\_ is still a controversial issue because it concerns the patients' right to live or die.
7. After her husband's death, the young woman resorted to \_\_\_\_\_ when she decided that she could not support her baby-to-be financially.

8. Because the \_\_\_\_\_ way of treatment did not work, the patient thought he should try some kind of alternative medicine.
9. Even though she is from Thai family background, independence and self-confidence are her \_\_\_\_\_ personalities.
10. Health science is the \_\_\_\_\_ related to many other branches of science and social science.

## REFERENCES

**Directions:** Using the line references given, look back in the INPUT and find the references for the words in **italics**.

1. ...the discipline of applied science which deals with...[line 1]

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. ...and the application of that knowledge...[line 3]

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. ...the scientific accuracy of these fields... [line 10]

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. ...solve health problems that may or may not...[lines 12-13]

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The most common areas are... [lines 18]

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## LISTENING

**Directions:** You will hear a talk on “Medicine”. Listen to the talk and write T before a true statement and write F before a false statement.



1. Medicine concerns how to keep a person healthy.
2. Medicine is both knowledge and application.
3. Only people in the medical professions can practice medical care.
4. Allied health professions include nurses and pharmacists.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. In most countries, anyone can practice medicine.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Neurology is a sub-branch of medicine.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Medicine and health care have long been in existence.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. All traditions of medicine developed in the Western world.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Hippocratic tradition is exactly the same as the Western tradition.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Some systems of medicine are competitors of the Western tradition.

## LANGUAGE FOCUS & WRITING

### Subject-Verb Agreement

In a sentence, the subject and the verb must agree in number and person, particularly when the verb is to be supplied in the present tenses and past continuous tense. You may add *-s* or *-es* to the end of a singular verb or put a verb in its appropriate singular or plural form, e.g. *is*, *are*, *was* or *were*. To be aware of various types of subjects will enable you to supply verbs in correct singular or plural forms to agree with the subjects. Usually, a singular countable noun when used as a subject takes a singular verb, and a plural countable noun takes a plural verb. Other subjects can be divided into three main types as follows:

#### 1. Subjects that take singular verbs

1.1 All uncountable nouns take a singular verb.

e.g. *The knowledge gained from experience is invaluable.*

*The news concerning the disease was very positive.*

**Note:** Certain nouns ending in *-s*, like those involving diseases or subjects, take a singular verb.

news

economics

mathematics

AIDS

ethics

physics

measles

linguistics

politics

mumps

e.g. *Mathematics is my favorite subject.*

*Ethics concerns the study of moral behavior.*