

FUNCTIONS OF THE BODY

The five senses

To ask about the senses, doctors may use these questions:

- What is your sight like?
- What is your hearing like?
- Is your sense of smell normal?
- Is your sense of taste normal?
- Have you noticed any numbness in your fingers/toes?

Other functions

Function	Verb	Noun
Speaking	Speak	Speech
Walking	Walk	Gait
Breathing/respiration	Inhale/breathe in/take a breath in/exhale/breathe out	Breath
Urination/micturition	Urinate/micturate/pass urine/pass water	Urine
Defecation	Defecate/pass feces/pass stools	Feces/stools
menstruation	Menstruate/have a period	Menstrual period/monthly period

Less common functions

There are some things we do less often. When we are hot, we sweat. When we are nervous, we shake. When we are sad, we cry. Doctors may ask:

- Do you sweat more than usual?
- Do you shake more than usual?

Match the symptoms to the questions

1. Dysuria
2. Dysphagia
3. Diplopia
4. Dysphasia
5. Dyspnea

What is your breathing like?

Do you have any pain when you pass water?

Do you have any difficulty with your speech?

Do you have any trouble swallowing?

Is your vision normal?

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Patients are describing symptoms of the conditions shown in brackets. Complete the sentences.

- I've got pain and _____ in both feet. (Peripheral neuropathy)
- I'm having difficulty _____ solid food. (Esophageal stricture)
- I have a lot of problems _____. (Prostatic hypertrophy)
- I've been _____ more than usual, even when I'm not using them. (Parkinsonism)
- I have trouble _____ when I climb the stairs. (Left heart failure)

Complete the following sentences

- When I eat solid food, I have to _____ (bite/chew) it for a long time before I can _____ (swallow/eat) it.
- Do you have any pain when you _____ (pass/have) stools?
- I have no _____ (taste/appetite) and I've lost five kilos in the last few weeks.
- When did you last _____ (have/pass) a period?
- The garden is full of flowers, but my _____ (sense/sensation) of smell has disappeared and I can't enjoy the perfume.
- Take a deep _____ (breathe/breath) in.

Express your idea

You think a patient may have diabetes. Think of five questions you can ask the patient to investigate further. Try to use the question types presented in this lesson.