

## SCENE 36 • GRAMMAR

## my head hurts, I feel ill

Body pain and feeling unwell

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

A bad day

English

Read & listen online 

## Body pain and feeling unwell

The body part is the subject in **My head hurts**. Use **hurts** for one part and **hurt** for a plural: **My legs hurt**. Another everyday phrase is **I've got a sore throat**.

With **feel** use an adjective: **I feel ill, I feel hot, I feel cold**. The continuous **I'm feeling better** is also natural for a changing condition. **Sore** describes pain in a body part.

For a duration use **for: for two days**. Use **since** for a starting point: **since Saturday**. In this early health scene they can occur as short answers to **How long?**; a full continuing-tense pattern is practised later.

| Form  | Example                 | Meaning                                   |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| hurts | My head hurts.          | Describe pain in one body part.           |
| hurt  | My legs hurt.           | Describe pain in more than one body part. |
| ill   | I feel ill.             | Describe how you feel with an adjective.  |
| a     | I've got a sore throat. | Use the usual phrase for this symptom.    |
| For   | How long? For two days. | Give an elapsed duration.                 |

| Form            | Example                | Meaning                                       |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>Since Saturday.</b> | Give a starting point rather than a duration. |

My head hurts.

Describe pain in one body part.

My legs hurt.

Describe pain in more than one body part.

I feel ill.

Describe how you feel with an adjective.

I've got a sore throat.

Use the usual phrase for this symptom.

How long? For two days.

Give an elapsed duration.

Since Saturday.

Give a starting point rather than a duration.

**GRAMMAR****G1) NOTICE THE PATTERNS**

Underline the form described in this unit.

**1** My head hurts.

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

**2** My legs hurt.

Meaning: Describe pain in more than one body part.

**3** I feel ill.

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

**4** I've got a sore throat.

Meaning: Use the usual phrase for this symptom.

**5** How long? For two days.

Meaning: Give an elapsed duration.

**6** Since Saturday.

Meaning: Give a starting point rather than a duration.

**G2) CHOOSE THE FORM**

Choose the right word for the gap.

**1 My head \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ☐ A hurt
- ☐ B hurting
- ☐ C hurts

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

**2 My legs \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ☐ A is hurt
- ☐ B hurt
- ☐ C hurts

Meaning: Describe pain in more than one body part.

**3 I feel \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ☐ A illness
- ☐ B illy
- ☐ C ill

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

**4 I've got \_\_\_\_\_ sore throat.**

- ☐ A a
- ☐ B some
- ☐ C an

Meaning: Use the usual phrase for this symptom.

**5 How long? \_\_\_\_\_ two days.**

- ☐ A For
- ☐ B At
- ☐ C Since

Meaning: Give an elapsed duration.

**6 Since \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ☐ A Saturday
- ☐ B two days
- ☐ C three hours

Meaning: Give a starting point rather than a duration.

**G3) COMPLETE A SHORT MESSAGE**

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

hurts hurt

My head \_\_\_\_\_.

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

hurt hurts

My legs \_\_\_\_\_.

Meaning: Describe pain in more than one body part.

ill illness

I feel \_\_\_\_\_.

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

a an

I've got \_\_\_\_\_ sore throat.

Meaning: Use the usual phrase for this symptom.

For Since

How long? \_\_\_\_\_ two days.

Meaning: Give an elapsed duration.

Saturday two days

Since \_\_\_\_\_.

Meaning: Give a starting point rather than a duration.

#### G4) BUILD USEFUL SENTENCES

Put the words in order.

1 head My hurts.

---

Meaning: Describe pain in one body part.

2 My hurt. legs

---

Meaning: Describe pain in more than one body part.

3 I ill. feel

---

Meaning: Describe how you feel with an adjective.

4 throat. I've a got sore

---

Meaning: Use the usual phrase for this symptom.

5 For long? two How days.

---

Meaning: Give an elapsed duration.

## G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Describe pain in one body part. You say:

- ☐ A My head hurt.
- ☐ B My head hurts.

**2 Describe pain in more than one body part. You say:**

☐ A My legs hurts.

☐ B My legs hurt.

**3 Describe how you feel with an adjective. You say:**

☐ A I feel illness.

☐ B I feel ill.

**4 Use the usual phrase for this symptom. You say:**

☐ A I've got a sore throat.

☐ B I've got an sore throat.

**G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS**

Match the pairs.

- |                           |                                                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| ① How long? For two days. | ① Describe pain in one body part.               |
| ② I feel ill.             | ② Describe how you feel with an adjective.      |
| ③ Since Saturday.         | ③ Give a starting point rather than a duration. |
| ④ My legs hurt.           | ④ Use the usual phrase for this symptom.        |
| ⑤ I've got a sore throat. | ⑤ Give an elapsed duration.                     |
| ⑥ My head hurts.          | ⑥ Describe pain in more than one body part.     |