

La doctora también necesita comer

Monday of festival week, the day you fall ill, seen from the other side of the desk: forty patients for Marta García, the town doctor, no lunch, three calls from her mother, and a daughter who is waiting. The new neighbour at number 7, Mühlgasse 7, 12345 Valdemora, comes at four.

ANSWER KEY

LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING

L1) WHO SAYS IT?: 1a, 2a, 3a

L2) A BUSY DAY: 1a, 2b, 3a

L3) PEOPLE NEED DIFFERENT THINGS: 1a, 2b

Translation

Monday of festival week, half past seven in the morning. The waiting room of the Valdemora practice is already full.

Monday, thirteenth of April. Marta García is at the practice. The waiting room is full.

■ Good morning, Doctor. Forty patients today.

○ Forty? We will finish late, then. The first, please.

An old man with a walking stick comes in very slowly and sits down with a happy sigh.

▲ Good morning, Doctor. Here I am again.

○ Mr Ortega! You come twice a week. How are you?

▲ Bad. My back and leg hurt. And my head.

○ Your head too? Let us see. Breathe deeply.

▲ I am alone at home. My children live far away. I am bored.

○ Everything looks good. But you need company.

○ You can go to Clara's café in the morning. You can talk to people there.

▲ Coffee and people? I like that.

He goes off, smiling. The receptionist shakes her head.

○ Today he needs to talk to someone, Sonia.

More patients: a cough, a cut finger, a baby who will not stop crying. At eleven, a student comes in with a heavy rucksack.

● Good afternoon. My head hurts every day.

○ How many hours do you sleep?

● Only four. I have an exam on Friday. That is why I study at night.

○ You sleep very little. Your head needs to rest.

- ☐ Rest and get enough sleep. That way you can study better.

One o'clock. The waiting room is still full. The receptionist puts her head round the door.

- ☒ Doctor, it is one. You have to eat!

- ☐ I know, Sonia. In a moment. The next patient is waiting.

- ☒ Your mother is calling for the third time. What shall I tell her?

The doctor sighs, smiles and picks up the phone.

- ☐ Marta, you have to eat! Sonia tells me everything.

- ☐ And my neighbour comes at four. They are ill.

- ☐ I know, Mum. I have their appointment.

- ☐ And you? What time are you coming? Lucía is waiting for you.

- ☐ At seven. To your house.

- ☐ You always say that. Then it is nine.

Afternoon: more patients, more tea, still no lunch. At four the new neighbour from number 7 comes in, with a sore throat and a story about a trumpet. At half past seven the last patient goes home.

Eight o'clock, in Elvira's living room at number 7. Lucía sits at the table with her yellow sketchbook. A plate of pancakes is waiting.

△ Mum! Eight! We have been waiting since seven!

○ Sorry. Forty patients today.

△ Everyone sees you. Me, only at night.

□ Sit down, Marta. There are pancakes. A doctor needs to eat too.

○ Mum! I am not a child anymore!

□ To me, always. And you are hungry.

△ Mum, why are you a doctor?

○ Because of Grandma. Look, she still has my pretend prescription.

○ In this drawing I am the doctor. I want to help her.

○ She is the patient. My doll, the nurse.

□ And the prescription says: tea and bed. Always the same.

○ Today I like helping people. That is why I am a doctor.

△ The festival is Saturday, eighteenth of April. I am singing! Are you coming?

○ Saturday? I work until six.

△ But Mum! I want to see you at the festival.

Marta looks at her daughter, then at her mother. For once, Elvira says nothing.

- ☐ All right. I will not work on Saturday. We will all go. Dad and your brother too.
- ☐ And me? Of course I am going. I have to see everything.
- ☐ Now, time to eat. The pancakes are getting cold.

Everyone eats. Marta takes another pancake. It is the third already.