

SCENE 36 • GRAMMAR

Me duele la cabeza

Symptoms and asking about health

5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

A bad day

Spanish

Read & listen online ↗



The body part is the subject

Like **gustar**, **doler** uses a small word for the person: **Me duele la cabeza**. One body part takes **duele**; several take **duelen**: **Me duelen los oídos**. Two named parts also take the plural: **Me duelen la cabeza y la garganta**.

Use the article with the body part

Usually say **la cabeza**, not **mi cabeza**, in this pattern. **Me** already identifies whose head hurts. **Te duele** refers to you familiarly; **le duele**, to him/her or you politely; **nos**, **os**, **les** cover the plural persons.

Other symptoms

Tengo fiebre means I have a fever. **Estoy enfermo / estoy enferma** says I am ill. **Me encuentro mal** means I feel unwell. Ask **¿Qué te duele?** or politely **¿Qué le duele?**.

GRAMMAR**G1) CHOOSE THE FORM FOR THE MESSAGE**

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Me _____ la garganta.

- ☐ A duele
- ☐ B duelen
- ☐ C duelo

Meaning: My throat hurts.

2 Me _____ los oídos.

- ☐ A duelen
- ☐ B duele
- ☐ C doler

Meaning: My ears hurt.

3 Clara está _____.

- ☐ A enferma
- ☐ B enfermos
- ☐ C enfermo

Meaning: Clara is ill.

4 ¿Qué _____ duele, señora Martín?

- ☐ A me
- ☐ B te
- ☐ C le

Meaning: What hurts, Mrs Martín?

G2) COMPLETE A USEFUL EXCHANGE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

la el

Me duele _____ cabeza.

Meaning: My head hurts.

duelen duele

Nos _____ las piernas.

Meaning: Our legs hurt.

fiebre enferma

Marta tiene _____.

Meaning: Marta has a fever.

G3) PUT THE MESSAGE TOGETHER

Put the words in order.

1

Meaning: I cannot go to work today.

2

Meaning: What hurts?

3 duelen cabeza y garganta. la Me la

Meaning: My head and throat hurt.

G4) WHAT HELPS IN THIS SITUATION?

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 You are ill and call work to explain why you cannot come. You say:

- ☐ A Me gusta el trabajo.
- ☐ B Llego a las nueve.
- ☐ C Estoy enferma. Hoy no puedo ir.

G5) CONNECT THE MESSAGE AND ITS MEANING

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| ① tengo fiebre | ④ I have a fever |
| ② me duele la cabeza | ⑤ my head hurts |
| ③ me duelen los oídos | ⑥ my ears hurt |