

## U3: TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

### READING

1. Read the following questions. Discuss the answer together with your partner and write it down.

1) What tools do paramedics use to monitor heart functions?

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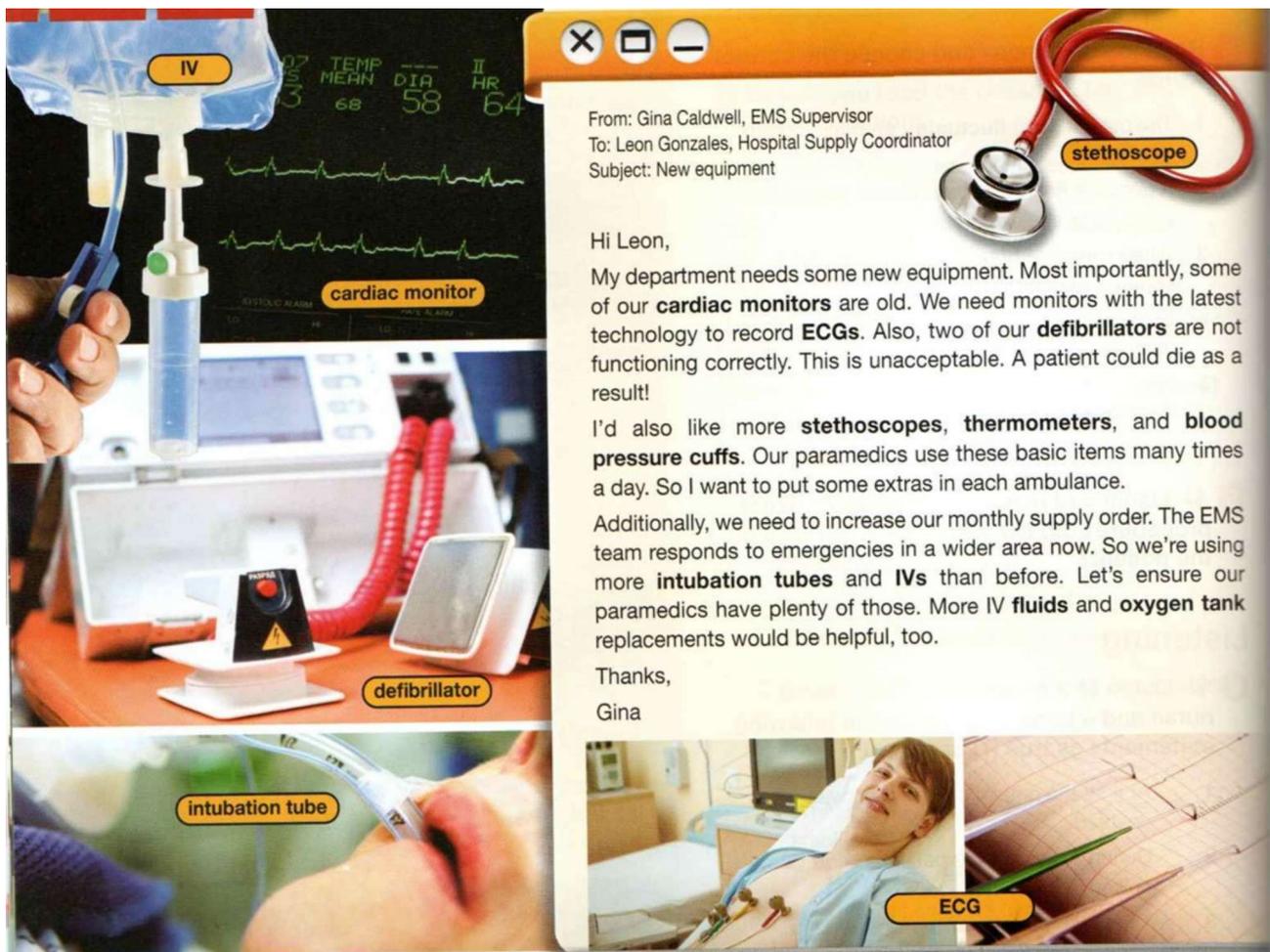
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2) What tools do paramedics use to administer fluids?

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2. Read the email. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).



From: Gina Caldwell, EMS Supervisor  
To: Leon Gonzales, Hospital Supply Coordinator  
Subject: New equipment

Hi Leon,

My department needs some new equipment. Most importantly, some of our **cardiac monitors** are old. We need monitors with the latest technology to record **ECGs**. Also, two of our **defibrillators** are not functioning correctly. This is unacceptable. A patient could die as a result!

I'd also like more **stethoscopes**, **thermometers**, and **blood pressure cuffs**. Our paramedics use these basic items many times a day. So I want to put some extras in each ambulance.

Additionally, we need to increase our monthly supply order. The EMS team responds to emergencies in a wider area now. So we're using more **intubation tubes** and **IVs** than before. Let's ensure our paramedics have plenty of those. More **IV fluids** and **oxygen tank** replacements would be helpful, too.

Thanks,  
Gina

IV  
TEMP 97  
MEAN 3  
DIA 68  
58  
II HR 64

cardiac monitor

defibrillator

intubation tube

stethoscope

ECG

1. \_\_\_\_\_ One of the ECG monitors is not functioning correctly.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The supervisor plans to place extra blood pressure cuffs in the ambulances.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The EMS team handles a larger area than it did previously.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The department wants to reduce the number of IV fluids and oxygen tanks ordered each month.

VOCABULARY: AMBULANCE'S MATERIALS AND MAINTENANCE

**1. Match each of the words to its definition.**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>a. Ambulance</b>                 | <b>1.</b> It is a special vehicle used to take injured or sick people.  |
| <b>b. IV</b>                        | <b>2.</b> A device that is used to measure the strength of blood flow.  |
| <b>c. Tyres</b>                     | <b>3.</b> It is the acronym for an emergency medical technician.  |
| <b>d. Defibrillator</b>             | <b>4.</b> It is the recording of a patient's pathology information to understand any health problems he/she may have. |
| <b>e. EMT</b>                       | <b>5.</b> It is a machine used to restore normal rhythm to the heart.   |
| <b>f. Heart attack code</b>         | <b>6.</b> A medical device that allows a doctor to listen to the heart, lungs, or another part of the body.           |
| <b>g. ECG</b>                       | <b>7.</b> A device that lets a fluid flow directly into a person's blood through a needle.                            |
| <b>h. Stethoscope</b>               | <b>8.</b> A soft, flexible device that is used to create a passage in an obstructed airway.                           |
| <b>i. Victim</b>                    | <b>9.</b> Protocol in the event of a myocardial infarction.   |
| <b>j. Intubation tube</b>           | <b>10.</b> A type of cardiac monitor that detects electrical activity in the heart.                                   |
| <b>k. Windscreen washer fluid</b>   | <b>11.</b> Think rubber ring that is fitted around the outer edge of a vehicle's wheel.                               |
| <b>l. Medical history</b>           | <b>12.</b> It is a source of oxygen, small in size, which can be used while on the move.                              |
| <b>m. Portable oxygen apparatus</b> | <b>13.</b> It is a piece of clothing that increases a person's visibility.  |
| <b>n. Reflective safety vest</b>    | <b>14.</b> It is the liquid used to clean the windscreen of the car.  |
| <b>o. Blood pressure cuff</b>       | <b>15.</b> It is someone who has suffered an accident, illness or aggression.   |

**2. Read the sentences and choose the correct words**

- 1) The doctor used a(n) stethoscope/IV to check the patient's heart rate.
- 2) A(n) thermometer/defibrillator restarts at the heart after it stops.
- 3) Loss of fluids/ECGs often leads to shock.
- 4) A doctor might use a(n) cardiac monitor/intubation tube to assess a patient's stability.
- 5) An EMT uses a blood pressure cuff / portable oxygen apparatus to measure a patient's vital signs.

**3. Write a short sentence combining each of the following pairs of words from the previous activity.**

- A+C: \_\_\_\_\_
- E+N: \_\_\_\_\_
- D+F: \_\_\_\_\_
- I+L: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Join the two parts of the each word referring to the maintenance of an ambulance.**

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Head      | a. ant             |
| 2. Cool      | b. Its             |
| 3. Brake     | c. steering        |
| 4. Be        | d. expiration date |
| 5. Power     | e. fluid           |
| 6. Insurance | f. lights          |
| 7. Engine    | g. ng              |
| 8. Sir       | h. oil             |
| 9. Sli       | i. ren             |

**5. Complete the sentence with the most suitable word from the previous exercises:**

- 1. Before starting the shift, the EMT checks the \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure the ambulance can move safely.
- 2. In case of a cardiac emergency, the \_\_\_\_\_ is used together with the heart attack code.
- 3. The EMT always wears a \_\_\_\_\_ when working near traffic to be visible and safe.

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ allows the EMT to listen to the patient's heart and lungs.
5. The engine must have an adequate level of \_\_\_\_\_ to function properly.
6. When the engine temperature is too high, the level of \_\_\_\_\_ must be checked.
7. The EMT collects the patient's \_\_\_\_\_ before giving any treatment.
8. A \_\_\_\_\_ is used to immobilise the arm if there is a possible fracture.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ must be filled so the driver can see clearly in bad weather.
10. During an emergency, the ambulance activates the \_\_\_\_\_ to warn other vehicles.
11. The EMT carries \_\_\_\_\_ to assist patients who have breathing difficulties.

## LISTENING

**1. Listen to a conversation between a student and a paramedic. Choose the correct answer.**

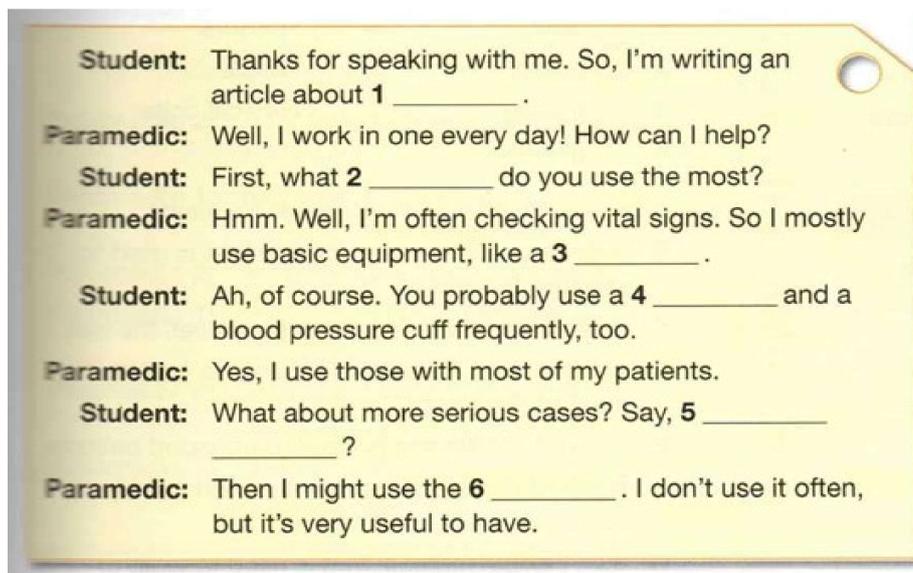
**1) What is the conversation mostly about?**

- A) the woman's concern's about old equipment
- B) the equipment that the woman uses frequently
- C) the reasons to inspect equipment regularly
- D) the purpose of using particular equipment to administer fluids

**2) What will the speakers discuss next?**

- A) the importance of oxygen tanks
- B) types of cardiac equipment
- C) how to read an ECG
- D) the challenges of using intubation tubes

**2. Listen again and complete the conversation.**



**Student:** Thanks for speaking with me. So, I'm writing an article about **1** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Paramedic:** Well, I work in one every day! How can I help?

**Student:** First, what **2** \_\_\_\_\_ do you use the most?

**Paramedic:** Hmm. Well, I'm often checking vital signs. So I mostly use basic equipment, like a **3** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Student:** Ah, of course. You probably use a **4** \_\_\_\_\_ and a blood pressure cuff frequently, too.

**Paramedic:** Yes, I use those with most of my patients.

**Student:** What about more serious cases? Say, **5** \_\_\_\_\_?

**Paramedic:** Then I might use the **6** \_\_\_\_\_. I don't use it often, but it's very useful to have.