This workbook, written in simple English with pictographs, helps adult learners of English in British Columbia (Canada) deal with biological and medical needs and hospital patient visits. Lessons include parts of the body, nurses' and doctors' examination and instructions, general health problems, hospital items, hospital admissions, and pre- and post-operative procedures. Three basic learning exercises for oral and written practice are included in the workbook: vocabulary development, short stories, and dialogue practice. (NAV) (Adjunct ERIC Clearinghouse for ESL Literacy Education)
HAVING AN OPERATION

Written by Myrna Rabinowitz
Acknowledgements

I wish to express my appreciation to the Vancouver General Hospital for assistance with the information which appears in this booklet.
Foreword:

Having an Operation: An ESL Workbook

is part of the Community Survival Skills series. This series was developed for adults learning English as a Second Language and focuses on the English language skills required to cope or survive in the community.

Having An Operation: An ESL WORKBOOK

is a student workbook focusing on the English language skills required when having an operation. It contains a variety of learning exercises which students may use for oral and written practice.

There are three basic kinds of learning exercises used in Having an Operation: An ESL Workbook.

| The Three Basic Learning Exercises Used in Having An Operation: An ESL Workbook |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vocabulary Development          | Vocabulary items are presented visually and in written exercises.             |
| Short Stories                   | Short stories with pictures, information and comprehension questions have been developed for various hospital situations. |
| Dialogue Practice               | Dialogues relevant to situations which occur when having an operation are presented and learning exercises are provided. |

Myrna Rabinowitz
March 1986
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Sue has a pain in her stomach. She is having trouble with her gall bladder. She needs an operation. Right now she is packing her robe and slippers. Tomorrow she is going to the hospital.

1. Where is Sue's pain?

2. What is she having trouble with?

3. What does she need?

4. What is she doing now?

5. Where is she going tomorrow?
Exercise 2  Health Problems

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What's the problem?
   I have a pain in my eye.

2. What's the problem?
   I have a pain in my arm.

3. What's the problem?
   I have a pain in my shoulder.

4. What's the problem?
   I have a pain in my knee.
Exercise 3  Health Problems

Answer the questions.

1. What’s the problem?

2. What’s the problem?

3. What’s the problem?

4. What’s the problem?
Exercise 4  Parts of the Body

Practise the words.

1 head
2 eye
3 nose
4 mouth
5 ear
6 neck
7 shoulder
8 chest
9 back
10 abdomen*  
11 arm
12 wrist
13 hand
14 finger
15 knee
16 leg
17 ankle
18 foot
19 heel
20 toe

*abdomen - often called stomach
Exercise 5  Parts of the Body

Write the correct words on the lines.

1______  2______  3______  4______  5______  6______  7______  8______  9______  10______
11______  12______  13______  14______  15______  16______  17______  18______  19______  20______

knee  leg  finger  foot  heel
arm  ear  nose  chest  mouth
back  eye  shoulder  wrist  ankle
toe  neck  hand  head  abdomen
Exercise 6    Health Problems

Practise the questions and answers.

1. What’s the problem?
   I have a pain in my hand.

2. What’s the problem?
   I have a bad pain in my chest.

3. What’s the problem?
   I have a *head-ache.

4. What’s the problem?
   I have a bad *ear-ache.

*ache - only with head-ache
   ear-ache
   tooth-ache
   back-ache
   stomach-ache
5. What's the problem?
   My neck hurts.

6. What’s the problem?
   My back hurts.

7. What’s the problem?
   My ankle is sore.
   (I have a sore ankle.)

8. What’s the problem?
   My toe is sore.
   (I have a sore toe.)
Exercise 7  
Inside the Body

Practise the words.

1 brain  
2 tonsils  
3 throat  
4 lung  
5 heart  
6 breast  
7 kidney  
8 stomach  
9 liver  
10 gall bladder  
11 intestines  
12 bladder  
13 appendix  
14 uterus
Exercise 8    Inside the Body

Write the correct words on the lines.


liver       throat       gall bladder       breast
brain       uterus       appendix       bladder
heart       lung         intestines      kidney
tonsils

15
Exercise 9  Health Problems

Practise the questions and answers.

1. What’s the problem?
   I’m having trouble with my gall bladder.

2. What’s the problem?
   I’m having trouble with my liver.

3. What’s the problem?
   I’m having trouble with my bladder.

4. What’s the problem?
   I’m having trouble with my lungs.
Exercise 10 Health Problems

Answer the questions.

1. What's the problem?
   
2. What's the problem?
   
3. What's the problem?
   
4. What's the problem?
Exercise 11    Sue Arrives at the Hospital

Read and practise the story and conversation.

Sue goes to admitting first. The admitting clerk asks many questions. Sue's cousin helps her with the English.

Clerk: Can I see your medical card, please?
Sue: Yes, here it is.
Clerk: How long have you lived in B.C.?
Sue: One year.
Clerk: Would you like a private room, a *semi-private room or a *standard room?
Sue: I'd like a standard room, please.
Clerk: That's fine. You need to pay now, please.

*semi-private - 2 patients
*standard - 4 patients
Exercise 12  At Admitting

Here are some more questions to practise.

1. What's your name?

2. What's your address?

3. How long have you lived at this address?

4. Are you a landed immigrant or a Canadian citizen?

5. Do you work?

6. Where do you work?

7. Where does your husband work?

8. How long has he worked there?

9. Who is your nearest living relative?

10. Have you ever been a patient here before?
Exercise 13  Admission Forms

This is an *admission form. The nurse will fill it in. The patient needs to read and sign it. Read and practise it.

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<tr>
<th>PATIENT - NAME, ADDRESS</th>
<th>PREVIOUS SURNAME</th>
<th>DATE OF BIRTH</th>
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*admission - admitting

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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14
This is a *consent form. The patient needs to read and sign it. Read and practise it.

**ADMISSION**

**CONSENT TO DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND CARE**

I, the undersigned, do hereby authorize the physicians, the hospital staff and employees of [Hospital Name] (and persons authorized by such other institutions as may be requested by the hospital) to carry out examinations, procedures and treatment deemed necessary and advisable for the diagnosis, treatment and continuing care of

______________________________
Patient

Signed: ____________________________
Patient or person legally authorized to give consent

______________________________
Relationship to Patient:

Witness: ____________________________

Print Name and Position ____________________________

(Date and Time of Consent should be clearly given).

*consent - permission
Exercise 15 Admission Forms

This form is for *valuables.
Read and practise it.

NOTICE RE PATIENTS' EFFECTS AND VALUABLES

1. **THE HOSPITAL WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ITEM LEFT AT THE BEDSIDE.**

2. While in Hospital, you may undergo medical procedures and treatment for which you must leave your bedside and cannot wear jewelry. Therefore, for your own protection, valuable articles and clothing should be returned home at the time of admission.

3. If you find it absolutely necessary to retain in the Hospital articles of value please have them deposited with the Accounting office for safekeeping.

4. Valuables may be retrieved during Accounting office hours. If your discharge is planned on any other time, please ensure that they are retrieved on the preceding day.

5. Dentures, eyeglasses, hearing aids or other personal effects should be stored in a proper container available on the nursing unit. **DO NOT** wrap them in a tissue and/or place them where they could be mistaken for something else.

6. Articles left in hospital after discharge, if not claimed within 3 months, will be disposed of at the discretion of the Hospital.

Acknowledged by Patient

Date

*valuables - money or jewelry
Exercise 16  Admission Forms

This form gives consent for an operation. Read and practise it.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SURGICAL OPERATION
OR DESIGNATED SPECIAL PROCEDURE
OR TREATMENT

Re:

With regard to the above-named patient, I, the undersigned, do hereby consent to:

(A) Treatment with

under the direction of __________________________, M.D./D.D.S.

OR:

(B) The surgical operation or special procedure of

under the direction of __________________________, M.D./D.D.S.

The nature and anticipated effects of such treatment, surgical operation or special procedure as detailed in A or B above have been explained to me by Dr. __________________________, and I understand the explanation.

I also authorize such additional or alternative treatment, surgical operations or special procedures as, in the opinion of the physician or dentist named in the first paragraph, are immediately necessary.

I further agree that, at his or her discretion, the physician or dentist named in the first paragraph may make use of other surgeons, physicians, dentists and hospital medical staff working under his direction, in the performance of all or any of the surgical operation or special procedure.

I also consent to the administration of anaesthesia and to the use of such anaesthetics as may be deemed advisable by the anaesthetist.

Dated this __________ day of __________________________ 19 __________

Time

Signed __________________________
Exercise 17  In Sue's Room

Read and practise the story and conversation.

Sue is in a room with three other women. A nurse comes to talk to Sue and ask some medical questions.

Nurse:  What kind of operation are you having?
Sue:  I'm having a gall bladder operation.
Nurse:  Are you in pain?
Sue:  Yes.
Nurse:  Where is the pain?
Sue:  Right here.
Nurse:  Have you ever had *surgery before?
Sue:  No, I haven't.
Nurse:  Okay. A doctor will be here soon to examine you. Please put your hospital gown on. 'Bye now.

*surgery means an operation
Exercise 18  Operations

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What kind of operation are you having?
   I’m having a kidney operation.

2. What kind of operation are you having?
   I’m having an operation on my legs.

3. What kind of surgery are you having?
   I’m having heart surgery.

4. What kind of surgery are you having?
   I’m having eye surgery.
Exercise 19  Hospital Items

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is it?
   It's a hospital gown.

2. What is it?
   It's a hospital mask.

3. What is it?
   It's a thermometer.

4. What is it?
   It's a stethoscope.
5. What is it?  
   It's a blood pressure gauge.

6. What is it?  
   It's a hammer.

7. What is it?  
   It's a tongue depressor.

8. What is it?  
   It's a flashlight.
Exercise 20  
Hospital Items

Answer the questions.

1. What is it?

2. What is it?

3. What is it?

4. What is it?
5. What is it?

6. What is it?

7. What is it?

8. What is it?
Exercise 21  What is the Doctor Doing?

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is the doctor doing?
   He's **examining** her stomach.
   - touching
   - pressing on

2. What is the doctor doing?
   He's listening to her heartbeat.

3. What is the doctor doing?
   He's listening to her breathing.
4. What is the doctor doing?  
He's **testing** her reflexes.  
checking

5. What is the doctor doing?  
He's **examining** her throat.  
checking  
looking at

6. What is the doctor doing?  
He's **examining** her eyes.  
checking  
looking at
Exercise 22    What is the Doctor Doing?

Answer the questions.

1. What is the doctor doing?

2. What is the doctor doing?

3. What is the doctor doing?
4. What is the doctor doing?

5. What is the doctor doing?

6. What is the doctor doing?
Exercise 23  The Doctor’s Examination

Read and practise the conversation.

Doctor: Hello, Mrs. Young. How are you feeling?
Sue: Oh, not very well.
Doctor: Are you taking medication?
Sue: No, I’m not.
Doctor: Do you have pain all the time or does it come and go?
Sue: I have pain all the time but sometimes it’s dull and sometimes it’s sharp.
Doctor: Okay. Please lie down and I’ll examine you. Does this hurt?
Sue: Yes, it hurts a lot.
Doctor: Alright, Mrs. Young. The nurse will bring you a pain killer.

*medication - medicine
*pain killer - a pill for pain
Exercise 24  Doctor’s Instructions

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What did the doctor say?
   "Lift up your knees."

2. What did the doctor say?
   "Lie on your left side."

3. What did the doctor say?
   "Open your mouth wide."

4. What did the doctor say?
   "Make a fist please."
Exercise 25  Doctor’s Instructions

Answer the questions.

1. What did the doctor say?

2. What did the doctor say?

3. What did the doctor say?

4. What did the doctor say?
Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is it?
   It's a pill.
   (It's a tablet.)

2. What is it?
   It's a capsule.

3. What is it?
   It's an injection.

4. What is it?
   It's an intravenous.
   (It's an I.V.)
5. What is it?
   It’s a laxative.

6. What is it?
   It’s a bedpan.

7. What is it?
   It’s a chart.

8. What is it?
   It’s a food tray.
Exercise 27  Hospital Items

Answer the questions.

1. What is it?

2. What is it?

3. What is it?

4. What is it?
5. What is it?

6. What is it?

7. What is it?

8. What is it?
Exercise 28  The Doctor's Examination

Change and practise the conversation.

Doctor:  Hello. How are you feeling?
Patient:  Oh, not too good.
         not too bad.
         pretty good.

Doctor:  Do you feel any pain?
         Are you in pain?
Patient:  Yes, it's very painful.
         the pain is very sharp.
         the pain is very strong.

Doctor:  Please, lie on your right side.
         lie on your left side.
         lift up your knees.
         The nurse will bring you a pain killer.
         you some medication.
         a bedpan.

Patient:  Can I have a laxative too please?
         my lunch tray?
Exercise 29  What is the Nurse Doing?

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is the nurse doing?  
   She's taking Sue's temperature.

2. What is the nurse doing?  
   She's checking Sue's pulse.

3. What is the nurse doing?  
   She's checking Sue's blood pressure.
Exercise 30  What is the Nurse Doing?

Answer the questions.

1. What is the nurse doing?

2. What is the nurse doing?

3. What is the nurse doing?
Exercise 31  Sue and the Nurse

Read and practise the conversation.

Nurse: This tablet is for pain. Please swallow it.
Sue: Alright. Thank you.
Nurse: I'm going to take your temperature now....
   Good. Now we need a urine specimen. Please
   *void into the bedpan and I'll be back in a
   few minutes.
Sue: Okay. What time is my operation tomorrow?
Nurse: It's at 10 a.m. Today you need to have some
   tests. You're going to have a blood test and an x-ray.

*void - empty bladder
Exercise 32  Medical Tests

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What kind of test is she having?
   She’s having a blood test.

2. What kind of test is he having?
   He’s having an x-ray.

3. What kind of test is she having?
   She’s having an ultrasound.

4. What kind of test is he having?
   He’s having an electrocardiogram.
Exercise 33       Medical Tests

Answer the questions.

1. What kind of test is she having?

2. What kind of test is he having?

3. What kind of test is she having?

4. What kind of test is he having?
Exercise 34  Medical Tests

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is it?
   It's a blood sample.
   (It's a blood specimen.)

2. What are they?
   They are urine specimens.
   (They are urine samples.)

3. What is it?
   It's an x-ray.

4. What is it?
   It's an ultrasound.
Exercise 35  Medical Tests

Answer the questions.

1. What is it?

2. What are they?

3. What is it?

4. What is it?
Exercise 36  Sue and the Nurse

Change and practise the conversation.

Nurse:  This pill is for pain. Please swallow it.
This is a sleeping pill.

Patient:  Okay, thank you. I need it.
No, thank you. I don’t need it.

Nurse:  I’m going to take your temperature now.
check your blood pressure now.
listen to your heart now.
Later you’ll have a blood test.
an ultrasound.
an electrocardiogram.

Patient:  Alright. What time is my x-ray?
operation?

Nurse:  At 9 a.m. We also need a urine specimen.
sample.
Please void into this bedpan.
container.
Exercise 37  
Down the Hall

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is it?
   It’s the nursing station.

2. What is it?
   It’s the patient lounge.

3. What is it?
   It’s a bathroom.
4. What is it?
   It's an elevator.

5. What is it?
   It's a pay telephone.
   It's a pay phone.

6. What is it?
   It's the supply room.
Exercise 38    Down the Hall

Answer the questions.

1. What is it?

2. What is it?

3. What is it?
4. What is it?

5. What is it?

6. What is it?
Exercise 39  Doctors

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What kind of doctor is he?
   He is a surgeon.
   What does he do?
   He does the surgery.

2. What kind of doctor is he?
   He is an *anaesthetist.
   What does he do?
   He gives the anaesthetic.

3. What kind of doctor is she?
   She is a *family doctor.
   What does she do?
   She looks after medical problems for the whole family.

*anaesthetist - also anaesthesiologist
*family doctor - also family physician
   or G.P. (general practitioner)
Exercise 40  Visitors

Read and practise the story.

Sue is having a very busy afternoon. She is having many visitors. Who is visiting?

1. Her family is visiting her. Visiting hours are from 2-8 p.m. in this hospital.

2. Sue's surgeon is visiting her. He is examining her before the operation.

3. Sue's anaesthetist is visiting her. He wants to talk to her before the operation.
Exercise 41  Bedtime

Read and practise the conversation.

Nurse: Would you like a sleeping pill tonight?
Sue: No, thank you.
Nurse: Do you need anything?
Sue: Yes. Could I have another pillow please?
Nurse: Certainly. I’ll get you one. Anything else?
Sue: No thanks.
Nurse: If you need anything just pull this cord to call a nurse.
Sue: Okay. Thanks very much.
Nurse: Remember, don’t eat or drink before the operation.
Exercise 42  Bedtime

Fill in the correct word.

Nurse:  ________ you like a sleeping pill tonight?
Sue:  No, ________ you.
Nurse:  Do you ________ anything?
Sue:  Yes, ________ I have another pillow, please?
Nurse:  _________. I’ll get you one.
      Anything ________?
Sue:  ______ thanks.
Nurse:  If you need ________ just pull this cord
to ________ the nurse.
Sue:  Okay. Thanks very ________.
Nurse:  Remember, don’t eat or drink before the
      operation.

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Nurse: Good morning, Mrs. Young. Did you sleep well?
Sue: Not too well. I'm nervous.
Nurse: Try to relax. Remember, after this your stomach will feel much better.
Sue: I'll try.
Nurse: We're going to attach your I.V. now. Don't worry, it won't hurt.
Sue: What's this for?
Nurse: This is for the *anaesthetic you'll get later.

*anaesthetic - medication that puts you to sleep for an operation.
Exercise 44  Preparing for Surgery

Write the conversation in the correct order.

Nurse: This is for the anaesthetic you’ll get later.
Sue: Not too well. I’m nervous.
Nurse: Good morning, Mrs. Young.
Did you sleep well?
Sue: I’ll try.
Nurse: Try to relax. Remember, after this your stomach
will feel much better.
Sue: What’s this for?
Nurse: I’m going to attach your I.V. now. Don’t worry, it won’t hurt.

Nurse: ________________________________

Sue: ________________________________

Nurse: ________________________________

Sue: ________________________________

Nurse: ________________________________

Sue: ________________________________

Nurse: ________________________________
Just Before Surgery

Read and practise the story and conversation.

Sue is in the operating room. She is feeling more relaxed.

Surgeon: We're ready to give you your anaesthetic now. Would you like to ask any questions first?

Sue: Yes. How long is the operation?

Surgeon: It takes about one and a half hours. Any other questions?

Sue: No, that's all.

Anaesthetist: The anaesthetic comes through the I.V. You'll fall asleep in a few seconds. Are you ready?

Sue: Yes, I am.

Anaesthetist: When you wake up you'll be in the *recovery room.

*recovery room: - where patients go after an operation until they wake up.
Fill in the correct words.

Surgeon: We’re ready to give you your ____________ now. Would you like to ask any ____________ first?

Sue: Yes. How long is the ____________?

Surgeon: It ____________ about one and a half hours. Any other questions?

Sue: No, that’s ____________.

Anaesthetist: The anaesthetic comes through the ____________.

You’ll fall ____________ in a few ____________.

Are you ready?

Sue: Yes, I am.

Anaesthetist: When you ____________ up you’ll be in the ____________ room.

takes all recovery questions asleep
seconds I.V. operation anaesthetic wake
Exercise 47  After the Operation

Sue is back in her room now.
Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is Sue doing?
   She is pulling the cord for the nurse.

2. What is the nurse doing?
   She's holding the *basin* because Sue needs to vomit.

3. What is the nurse doing?
   She's giving Sue an injection for pain.

*basin - a basin is like a bowl*
Exercise 48  After the Operation

Answer the questions.

1. What is Sue doing?

2. What is the nurse doing?

3. What is the nurse doing?
Exercise 49        The Next Day

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is the nurse doing?
   She is checking Sue’s incision.

2. What is the nurse doing?
   She is changing the bandage.
   She is changing the dressing.

3. What is the nurse doing?
   She is giving Sue a sponge bath.

*incision - cut for surgery
Exercise 50  The Next Day

Answer the questions.

1. What is the nurse doing?

2. What is the nurse doing?

3. What is the nurse doing?
Exercise 51  A Few Days Later

Read and practise the questions and answers.

Nurse: I'm here to take out your stitches.
Sue: Will it hurt?
Nurse: Just a little.-- You look much better.
Sue: Thank you. I'm eating food again.
Nurse: Did you move your bowels yet?
Sue: No, I'm afraid not.
Nurse: You need a laxative.

*stitches are used to sew an incision
*move your bowels in the toilet
Exercise 52

A Few Days Later

Write the conversation in the correct order.

Nurse: Did you move your bowels yet?
Sue: Thank you. I'm eating food again.
Nurse: You need a laxative.
Sue: No, I'm afraid not.
Nurse: Just a little. -- You look much better.
Sue: Will it hurt?
Nurse: I'm here to take your stitches out.

Nurse: ____________________________
Sue: ____________________________
Nurse: ____________________________
Sue: ____________________________
Nurse: ____________________________
Sue: ____________________________
Nurse: ____________________________
Sue’s cousin Tom is also in the hospital. He had an accident and broke his leg. His leg is in a cast. He can’t walk yet.

1. Where is Sue’s cousin?

2. What happened to him?

3. Can he walk?
Exercise 54 What is Tom Using?

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is Tom using?
   He's using a wheelchair.

2. What is Tom using?
   He's using a walker.

3. What is Tom using?
   He's using crutches.
Exercise 55  What is Tom Using?

Answer the questions.

1. What is Tom using?  

2. What is Tom using?  

3. What is Tom using?  

Exercise 56  Sue is Going Home

Read and practise the conversation.

Nurse: Do you have everything?
Sue: Yes. Thank you so much for your help.
Nurse: Oh, you're very welcome.
When is your cousin going home?
Sue: In a few days. But then he has to come back to the outpatient department.
Nurse: That's right. Well good-bye and good luck.
Sue: 'Bye. Thanks again.
Exercise 57  Inside the Hospital

Read and practise the questions and answers.

1. What is it?
   It's the outpatient department.

2. What is it?
   It's the emergency ward.

3. What is it?
   It's the cafeteria.
Exercise 58  Inside the Hospital

Answer the questions.

1. What is it?

2. What is it?

3. What is it?
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