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UN warns of deadly fake medicine

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3rd March, 2007

THE ARTICLE

UN warns of deadly fake medicine

The United Nations has sent out a warning that up to fifty per cent of prescription medicines sold in developing world pharmacies are fake. A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs watchdog, said fake medicines are flooding into poorer countries. It stated that the consequences of people taking these drugs can be deadly. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon overtake the trade in illegal drugs. Many of the resources of the world's law enforcement agencies are focused on hard drugs like heroin and cocaine. The UN suggests a refocus so that poor nations can fight the trade in counterfeit prescription drugs. The biggest problem for developing countries is that their laws are too old to control the flood, especially for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will die as a result of taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters very cleverly copy the details on the packaging and labelling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look identical to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous cocktail of chemicals that can kill or cause serious injury. The UN's report said the fake drugs, "expose patients to serious health risks by providing access to...medicines that are ineffective, substandard and, in some cases, even lethal." The UN's Philip Emafo said: "Gains over the past years in international drug control may be seriously undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many discount medicines in stores or online often seem to be authentic but turn out to be made from recipes posted on the Web.

WARM-UPS

1. MEDICINE: Walk around the class and ask other students about their health and the different kinds of medicine they have taken in their lives. Do all students believe the medicine they take will be good for them? Change partners often and share your information.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

The UN / medicine / pharmacies / fake goods / illegal drugs / developing countries / counterfeiters / medicine labels / serious injury / online shopping

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. REMEDIES: With your partner(s), talk about your feelings towards these remedies. Which do you trust and which do you not trust? Rank them in your order of preference. Show your ranking to your partner(s) and talk about it.

- prescription medicines
- over-the-counter medicines
- herbal medicines
- aromatherapy
- hypnosis
- acupuncture
- let nature take its course
- surgery

4. SENTENCE STARTERS: Complete these sentence starters – they are taken from the article you will read. Show them to your partner(s). What is the story behind them? Change partners and share stories.

- a) The UN has sent out a warning that _____.
- b) The trade in fake prescription drugs _____.
- c) The biggest problem for developing countries is _____.
- d) Counterfeiters cleverly copy _____.
- e) Fake drugs _____.
- f) Discount medicines sold online _____.

5. COUNTERFEIT: Look at the table. With your partner(s), talk about which things you would buy/use. Change partners often and share your findings.

- counterfeit medicine
- counterfeit money
- pirated software
- fake designer goods
- pirated CDs
- counterfeit art

6. MEDICINE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with medicine. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Fifty percent of prescription drugs in poor countries may be fake. T / F
- b. Some medicines are causing floods in some developing countries. T / F
- c. The world's police forces are not ready to deal with this problem. T / F
- d. The sale of prescription drugs over the Internet is not a problem. T / F
- e. It is very easy to identify the boxes and labels of the fake drugs. T / F
- f. A UN report said these drugs must not be taken with cocktails. T / F
- g. The UN report says that the fake drugs can prove to be lethal. T / F
- h. The recipes for many fake medicines can be found on the Web. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| a. sent out | useless |
| b. fake | lethal |
| c. watchdog | not controlled |
| d. deadly | counterfeit |
| e. flood | exactly the same |
| f. identical | weakened |
| g. ineffective | issued |
| h. undermined | deluge |
| i. unchecked | genuine |
| j. authentic | monitor |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. The United Nations has sent | and labelling |
| b. the UN drugs | in illegal drugs |
| c. fake medicines are flooding | years in international drug control |
| d. overtake the trade | result of taking the fake drugs |
| e. fight the trade in | into poorer countries |
| f. many people will die as a | out a warning |
| g. copy the details on the packaging | seem to be authentic |
| h. a dangerous cocktail | watchdog |
| i. Gains over the past | counterfeit prescription drugs |
| j. medicines in stores or online often | of chemicals |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

UN warns of deadly fake medicine

The United Nations has sent out a _____ that up to fifty per cent of prescription medicines sold in developing world pharmacies are fake. A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs _____, said fake medicines are flooding into poorer countries. It stated that the consequences of people taking these drugs can be _____. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon _____ the trade in illegal drugs. Many of the resources of the world's _____ enforcement agencies are focused on _____ drugs like heroin and cocaine. The UN suggests a refocus so that poor nations can fight the trade in counterfeit prescription drugs. The biggest problem for developing countries is that their laws are too old to _____ the _____, especially for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will die as a _____ of taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters very _____ copy the details on the packaging and labelling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look _____ to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous cocktail of chemicals that can kill or _____ serious injury. The UN's report said the fake drugs, "_____ patients to serious health risks by providing access to...medicines that are ineffective, substandard and, in some cases, even _____." The UN's Philip Emafo said: "Gains over the past years in international drug control may be seriously undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many _____ medicines in stores or online often seem to be authentic but turn out to be made from _____ posted on the Web.

law
overtake
watchdog
hard
warning
flood
control
deadly
expose
identical
cause
result
recipes
discount
cleverly
lethal

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

UN warns of deadly fake medicine

The United Nations _____ warning that up to fifty per cent of prescription medicines sold in developing world pharmacies are fake. A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs watchdog, said fake medicines _____ poorer countries. It stated that the consequences of people _____ deadly. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon overtake the trade in illegal drugs. Many of the resources of the world's law enforcement agencies _____ drugs like heroin and cocaine. The UN suggests a refocus so that poor nations can fight the trade in counterfeit prescription drugs. The biggest problem for developing countries is that their _____ control the flood, especially for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will _____ taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters _____ details on the packaging and labelling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look identical to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous cocktail of chemicals _____ serious injury. The UN's report said the fake drugs, "expose patients to serious health risks by providing access to...medicines that are ineffective, substandard _____ lethal." The UN's Philip Emafo said: "Gains over the past years in international drug _____ undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many discount medicines in stores or online _____ authentic but turn out to be made from recipes posted on the Web.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'fake' and 'drugs'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "MEDICINE" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about medicines and the trade in fake drugs.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sent out• watchdog• flooding• resources• biggest• mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• result• identical• cocktail• lethal• gains• recipes
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DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What do you think of the counterfeiters?
- c) Do you ever worry the medicine you take might cause you more harm than good?
- d) Do you think the UN's drugs watchdog is effective?
- e) What can people in developing countries do to protect themselves against fake drugs?
- f) Do you think law enforcement agencies will ever be able to stop the trade in illegal and fake prescription drugs?
- g) What kind of help should rich countries give to poor countries?
- h) What kind of punishment do you think the counterfeiters should receive?
- i) Would you ever buy medicine over the Internet?
- j) Do you think there might be fake drugs in your local pharmacy?



STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) When was the last time you took medicine?
- c) What can medicine companies do to make it more difficult for counterfeiters to copy their drugs?
- d) Will you think twice the next time your doctor gives you a prescription?
- e) What can the UN do to fight this problem?
- f) What can you do to help fight this problem?
- g) Are you surprised that the recipes for many medicines are on the Web?
- h) What question would you like to ask a counterfeiter?
- i) What do you think the counterfeiter's answer would be?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

UN warns of deadly fake medicine

The United Nations has (1) _____ out a warning that up to fifty per cent of prescription medicines (2) _____ in developing world pharmacies are fake. A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs (3) _____, said fake medicines are flooding into poorer countries. It stated that the consequences of people taking these drugs can be deadly. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon (4) _____ the trade in illegal drugs. Many of the resources of the world's law enforcement agencies are focused on (5) _____ drugs like heroin and cocaine. The UN suggests a refocus so that poor nations can fight the trade in counterfeit prescription drugs. The biggest problem for developing countries is that their laws are too old to control the flood, (6) _____ for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will die as a (7) _____ of taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters very (8) _____ copy the details on the packaging and labelling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look identical to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous cocktail of chemicals that can kill or cause (9) _____ injury. The UN's report said the fake drugs, "expose patients to serious health risks by providing access to...medicines that are ineffective, substandard and, in some (10) _____, even lethal." The UN's Philip Emafo said: "(11) _____ over the past years in international drug control may be seriously undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many discount medicines in stores or online often seem to be authentic but turn out to be made from (12) _____ posted on the Web.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) sending | (b) sender | (c) send | (d) sent |
| 2. | (a) sold | (b) sales | (c) seller | (d) sell |
| 3. | (a) doggy | (b) old dog | (c) watchdog | (d) guard dog |
| 4. | (a) taken | (b) takeover | (c) overtake | (d) undertake |
| 5. | (a) hardened | (b) hard | (c) harden | (d) hardest |
| 6. | (a) especially | (b) special | (c) speciality | (d) specialize |
| 7. | (a) reason | (b) effect | (c) cause | (d) result |
| 8. | (a) cleverly | (b) clever | (c) cleverness | (d) cleverer |
| 9. | (a) series | (b) serious | (c) seriously | (d) seriousness |
| 10. | (a) briefcases | (b) cases | (c) case | (d) suitcases |
| 11. | (a) Rains | (b) Pains | (c) Gains | (d) Drains |
| 12. | (a) receptions | (b) recipes | (c) receipts | (d) recipients |

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about the UN's International Narcotics Control Board. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DRUGS POSTER: Make a poster showing different kinds of drugs and medicines. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the impact fake prescription drugs are having on people in developing countries. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a counterfeiter of fake prescription drugs. Tell him/her what you think of his/her activities. Give him three pieces of advice. Ask him three questions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. T d. F e. F f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| a. sent out | issued |
| b. fake | counterfeit |
| c. watchdog | monitor |
| d. deadly | lethal |
| e. flood | deluge |
| f. identical | exactly the same |
| g. ineffective | useless |
| h. undermined | weakened |
| i. unchecked | not controlled |
| j. authentic | genuine |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. The United Nations has sent | out a warning |
| b. the UN drugs | watchdog |
| c. fake medicines are flooding | into poorer countries |
| d. overtake the trade | in illegal drugs |
| e. fight the trade in | counterfeit prescription drugs |
| f. many people will die as a | result of taking the fake drugs |
| g. copy the details on the packaging | and labelling |
| h. a dangerous cocktail | of chemicals |
| i. Gains over the past | years in international drug control |
| j. medicines in stores or online often | seem to be authentic |

GAP FILL:

UN warns of deadly fake medicine

The United Nations has sent out a **warning** that up to fifty per cent of prescription medicines sold in developing world pharmacies are fake. A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs **watchdog**, said fake medicines are flooding into poorer countries. It stated that the consequences of people taking these drugs can be **deadly**. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon **overtake** the trade in illegal drugs. Many of the resources of the world's **law** enforcement agencies are focused on **hard** drugs like heroin and cocaine. The UN suggests a refocus so that poor nations can fight the trade in counterfeit prescription drugs. The biggest problem for developing countries is that their laws are too old to **control** the **flood**, especially for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will die as a **result** of taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters very **cleverly** copy the details on the packaging and labelling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look **identical** to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous cocktail of chemicals that can kill or **cause** serious injury. The UN's report said the fake drugs, "**expose** patients to serious health risks by providing access to...medicines that are ineffective, substandard and, in some cases, even **lethal**." The UN's Philip Emafo said: "Gains over the past years in international drug control may be seriously undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many **discount** medicines in stores or online often seem to be authentic but turn out to be made from **recipes** posted on the Web.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - c 4 - c 5 - b 6 - a 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - b 11 - c 12 - b