

Google will check to see if you are depressed

26th August, 2017



The search engine Google will soon start a service that lets people check their mental health online. People searching for "depression" on Google's search

page will get a link to a questionnaire along with their search result. The questionnaire will check to see if you could be suffering from depression. There are nine questions on the self-assessment. Google has partnered with America's National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) on the project. A NAMI spokesperson said Google users can take the private questionnaire to help them find out how depressed they are. He said this could help people decide if they need to see a doctor. The questionnaire will initially only be available for Internet users in the USA.

Google's blog said the questionnaire could help people get treatment for depression more quickly. It said: "Statistics show that those who have symptoms of depression experience an average of a six- to eight-year delay in getting treatment after the onset of symptoms. We believe that awareness of depression can help empower and educate you, enabling quicker access to treatment." However, Dr Aaron Balick, an expert on how websites can help people, said Google's questionnaire was the same as reading any online information about depression. He told the BBC: "A better approach would be...offering [people] resources and a direct line - perhaps a chat box - to local psychological services."

Sources: bbc.com / blog.google / theverge.com

Writing

The Internet is as important for checking health as doctors are. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

search engine / mental health / questionnaire / depression / doctor / Internet users / treatment / statistics / symptoms / awareness / expert / information / resources / chat

True / False

- Google will operate a special website to help with mental health issues. T / F
- There is a questionnaire with 90 questions on it about depression. T / F
- Google will send a mental health doctor to help people. T / F
- Google users all over the world can use the online mental health service. T / F
- Statistics show people wait 6 to 7 weeks before getting treatment. T / F
- Awareness of depression can get you treatment more quickly. T / F
- A doctor said Google's help was the same as any online information. T / F
- The doctor said a chat box would be better to help people. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. soon | a. medical care |
| 2. questionnaire | b. representative |
| 3. partnered | c. way |
| 4. spokesperson | d. survey |
| 5. initially | e. signs |
| 6. treatment | f. before long |
| 7. symptoms | g. mental |
| 8. onset | h. at first |
| 9. approach | i. teamed up |
| 10. psychological | j. beginning |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What treatment can people get for depression?
- Why do people get depressed?
- Why do people wait so long to get treated for depression?
- How do people know they are depressed?
- How would you help people with depression?
- What do you think of the idea of a chat box online?
- What questions would you like to ask the doctors?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. a service that lets people check their | a. for depression |
| 2. suffering | b. websites can help people |
| 3. There are nine questions | c. depressed they are |
| 4. help them find out how | d. mental health online |
| 5. initially only be | e. to eight-year delay |
| 6. help people get treatment | f. on the self-assessment |
| 7. experience an average of a six- | g. line |
| 8. awareness of depression can help | h. available for Internet users |
| 9. an expert on how | i. empower and educate you |
| 10. a direct | j. from depression |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of Google?
- How important is Google to you?
- How is your mental health?
- What do you know about depression?
- Would you take a mental health questionnaire?
- What can we do to beat depression?
- What other health tests could people do online?
- Why is so little money spent on mental health?

Spelling

- check their mental health nnlieo
- you could be giffunesr from depression
- self-mssastesne
- take the private inouirteesnaq
- help people diceed
- only be vaellaabi for Internet users
- have mmsopyst of depression
- a six- to eight-year lyaed
- ranasesew of depression
- an erxpet on how
- A better aarcphpo
- a ectird line

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. a	7. e	8. j	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Internet Experts

You think Internet experts are the best people to help someone with depression. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as good. Also, tell the others who of these are the least able to help people with depression (and why): other sufferers, friends or family members.

Role B – Other Sufferers

You think other sufferers are the best people to help someone with depression. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as good. Also, tell the others who of these are the least able to help people with depression (and why): Internet experts, friends or family members.

Role C – Friends

You think friends are the best people to help someone with depression. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as good. Also, tell the others who of these are the least able to help people with depression (and why): other sufferers, Internet experts or family members.

Role D – Family Members

You think family members are the best people to help someone with depression. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their people aren't as good. Also, tell the others who of these are the least able to help people with depression (and why): other sufferers, friends or Internet experts.

Speaking – Help

Rank these with your partner. Put the best people to help with depression at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| • Internet experts | • family |
| • other sufferers | • counselors |
| • friends | • colleagues |
| • doctors | • neighbours |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.