



Lesson plan: Medical Gaslighting

Topic: medical gaslighting and diagnosis

Timing: 30–40 mins

Lesson type/focus: reading and vocabulary

Level: B2–C1

Aims:

- developing topic-specific vocabulary
- reading for detail

Teaching notes and answer key

Part 1: speaking

Put students into pairs or small groups and ask them to discuss questions 1–3 on the student worksheet.

Do whole class feedback to discuss and share answers.

Suggested answers

1. How do medical professionals reach a diagnosis?

Students' answers may include:

observation of symptoms, diagnostic tests, patients' description of symptoms

2. How can misdiagnosis occur?

Students' answers may include:

misinterpretation of test results, doctor's misinterpretation of symptoms, inaccurate description of symptoms by patients, lack of specialist knowledge

3. What do you understand by the term *gaslighting*?

Students' own answers

Part 2: vocabulary

Have students work individually, or in pairs, to match the terms and definitions.

Go through the answers as a class.

Answers

1f 2d 3g 4a 5h 6c 7e 8b

B. Have students work in pairs to complete the definitions with words from A.

Part 3: reading

A. Have students work individually to read the text and answer the questions. Then have them compare their ideas with a partner.

Click the link to access the article.

[Medical gaslighting: when conditions turn out not to be 'all in the mind'](#)

Go through the answers as a class.

Answers

1. a 1944 film



2. *heart disease in women*
3. *misdiagnosis*
4. *they are based on a narrow section of the population – heterosexual white men*
5. *including a wider part of society in the statistics used for diagnosis*

B Have students work individually or in pairs to complete the sentences with the correct words.

Go through the answers as a class.

Answers

1. *all in your head / all in their heads*
2. *out of whack*
3. *hold water*
4. *being gaslighted / being gaslit*
5. *the bottom line*

Further reading:

[How to spot medical gaslighting and what to do about it:](#)
[The toxic power dynamics of gaslighting in medicine:](#)