

An ER Visit

Pre-reading

Questions: What or where is the ER?
Why might a person need to go there?



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Definitions: Ambulance – vehicle that brings people to the hospital
Urgent – needing immediate attention
Life-threatening – dangerous; extremely serious or critical

Reading

16 Kris was playing dress-up. She put on her mom's long beads, fancy hat and high heeled
36 shoes. Kris tripped and fell into a sharp edge of a table. There was a deep cut on her forehead.
36 Mom rushed Kris to the Emergency Room, or ER.

45 The ER is the place to go when **immediate** medical help is needed. Kris and her mom went
63 by car. When a person needs to get there more quickly, an ambulance should be called. Most
80 hospitals have an ER. Doctors and nurses are there 24 hours a day to help patients.

96 People should only visit the ER when help is needed right away. Examples of times to visit
113 the ER include:

- 116 • After an accident
- 119 • Life-threatening illness
- 121 • Middle of the night care is necessary

128 The ER is not a clinic. It is not a place to get treatment for colds, sore throats, or other more
149 common illnesses. A clinic or Urgent Care is best for most health concerns. In clinics, most
165 doctors are able to see patients within one or two days. If same-day care is needed or the clinic is
185 closed, Urgent Care is a good option. Use the ER only if the health concern is life-threatening.

202 What can you do if you are not sure if you should go to the clinic, Urgent Care, or the ER?
223 Call your doctor's office. Even if it is after hours, there is usually someone who will answer the
241 phone. She will suggest which place you should choose based on the health concern.

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Understanding

1. What is the ER? _____

2. When should the ER be is used? _____

3. When should the ER not be used? _____

4. What does the word **immediate** mean? _____

5. Besides the ER, where can a person receive medical help? (List two places.) _____

Writing

Option A: In your own words, retell this reading.

Option B: Write about your experiences with the ER or Urgent Care.
