

Painkillers



What are painkillers?

Painkillers are medications that relieve pain. They do this by interacting with the nervous system to “block” the nervous system’s transmission of pain.

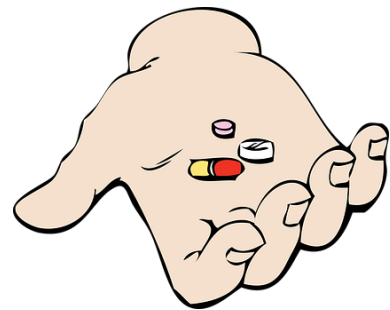
Interesting Fact!

In 2010, the number of painkillers prescribed could have medicated every American adult every four hours for one month.

What are the different types of painkillers?

There are three different types of painkillers:

- **Opioids:** These are very powerful painkillers that diminish the body’s perception of pain by attaching to opioid receptors in the body. Examples of opioids include hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, and codeine. These molecules mimic painkillers naturally found in your body. They are often prescribed for injury-related pain and/or after surgery.
- **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs):** These are painkillers that are often found over-the-counter. They “block” pain by preventing an enzyme called COX from creating two proteins: COX-1 and COX-2. COX-1 is found in the stomach lining to protect it from the harsh digestive chemicals and COX-2 is found in inflamed and/or injured joints.



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Reading Sample



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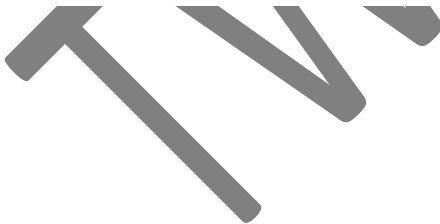
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Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. What are painkillers?
2. What
3. What
4. How do painkillers work?
5. What

Extension Question:

6. Imagine

Reading Sample



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