

THE FLATMATES

Language point:
Illness



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



BBC Learning English – The Flatmates

The Flatmates - Language point – Illness

You can see this language point online at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode06/languagepoint.shtml>

When you're ill, you can describe your symptoms (changes in your body which show that you're ill) in the following ways:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| You can use have got + ache (when it forms part of a compound noun) with only 5 parts of the body: | |
| I've got (a) | backache |
| She's got (a) | stomach-ache |
| He's got a | headache |
| You've got (an) | earache |
| He's got (a) | toothache |

Note: All of these aches except **headache** are usually uncountable in British English so you don't use **a** or **an** with them. In American English, all these aches are countable so you use **a** or **an** with them.

| | |
|--|-------|
| You can use hurt/ache (verb) with any part of the body: | |
| My leg | hurts |
| Her ankle | |
| His stomach | aches |
| Everything | |
| My toes | hurt |
| His hands | ache |

| | | |
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| You can use sore (adjective) with any part of the body: | | |
| I've got | a sore | arm |
| She' got | | leg |
| He's got | | toe |
| You've got | | head |

| | | |
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| You can use pain (noun) with any part of the body: | | |
| I feel | a pain in | my leg |
| She's got | | her stomach |
| He has | | his toe |

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| You can use be or feel + ill/sick/unwell (adjective) or feel + awful (adjective) to talk about your health in general: | |
| I feel | ill |
| I'm | sick |
| She's | unwell |
| He feels | awful |

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Vocabulary:

Morning, campers! (informal greeting to more than one person):
Good morning!

My head's killing me (informal, idiom):
I've got a very bad headache

a hangover (n):
a headache from drinking a lot of alcohol

a fry-up (n, informal):
a meal made of fried foods (fried egg, mushrooms, bacon etc)

to burn the midnight oil (informal):
to study or work until late at night

Who's for...? (offer, informal):
Who wants...?

You're a pain in the neck (idiom):
You're very annoying

Would you like to try an online quiz about this language point? Go to:
<http://bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode06/quiz.shtml>

Or you can download the quiz from:
<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/flatmates/episode06/quiz.pdf>