

READING AND SPEAKING

I'm a clown doctor!

- 1 What does a doctor do? What does a clown do? Write down three things for each. Tell the class your ideas.
- 2 Which of these things did you think of? Which do clowns do? Which do doctors do? Which do both do?

wear funny clothes	wear white coats
make children feel better	do magic tricks
perform operations	give injections
wear red rubber noses	make funny faces
tell jokes	give medicine

- 3 Look at the pictures. Lucy Cheetham is a clown doctor working for *Theodora Children's Trust* – a charitable organization. What do you think a clown doctor does?
- 4 Read the introduction. What is the new kind of medicine?
- 5 Read the rest of the article. Answer the questions.
 - 1 Who is Dr LooLoo? Who is Dr Chequers?
 - 2 In what ways is their job 'extremely silly'? Give examples.
 - 3 How did Lucy become a Theodora clown doctor?
 - 4 Why does she like her job?
 - 5 What does she wear?
 - 6 What would be useless?
 - 7 Why is it useful to eat in the hospital cafeteria?
 - 8 What does she do after work?
 - 9 Where does the money for Lucy's salary come from?
 - 10 Describe a typical working day for Lucy.

She arrives in the hospital with ...

Then she goes into the wards and ...

GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Complete these sentences from the text.

All over the world, children in hospital _____ with a new kind of medicine.

It's a charity; so we _____ with the money people give.

What tenses are they?

- 2 Complete these passive sentences.

- 1 People of all ages love clowns.

Clowns _____ by people of all ages.

- 2 He is giving her an injection.

She's _____ given an injection.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 2.4 p137

THE CLOWN DOCTOR

All over the world, children in hospital are being treated with a new kind of medicine: **laughter**. **LUCY** is 23 and works for *Theodora Children's Trust*. She is one of many clown doctors who bring a smile to the faces of sick children.

“ I'm a Theodora clown doctor, I call myself Dr LooLoo. I spend two days a week in children's hospitals being extremely silly with my friend and colleague Dr Chequers. We make funny faces, tell jokes, and do magic tricks. As I walk into the wards I blow bubbles, shake hands with the kids, and make up nonsense songs for those children well enough to sing. We take special balloons to make 'balloon animals' and tell funny stories about them. We often meet kids who one week look really sick, then we go back the next week and they're racing about yelling 'Hi there, Dr LooLoo! Hi Dr Chequers!'”

I'm naturally a very cheerful person. I've always been a clown. In fact my father's a clown and I started working with him when I was eight years old. I knew it was just the job for me and I became a clown doctor because I think it's a great way to cheer up sick, frightened children in hospital. I wear a fancy coat, a yellow shirt, and tights with big stripes. Also, I have a red rubber nose and wear my hair in crazy plaits.

Being a clown in a hospital is very tiring both physically and emotionally. We have to learn not to show our feelings, otherwise we'd be useless. Clown doctors are sensitive but this is not a side most people see. To the children we're happy all the time. I'm still learning to allow myself to feel sad occasionally.

There are special kids you get really close to. At the



moment I'm working with a very sick little girl from Bosnia who speaks no English, so our only common language is laughter. She's been in and out of hospital for operations so many times and she's always on my mind.



At lunchtime we eat in the hospital cafeteria and that's really useful because we meet the nurses and doctors. They tell us about particular kids who they think will benefit from a clown doctor visit. If a child is frightened, perhaps they're being given an injection or some nasty medicine - we can distract them so the nurses can do their job.

About six o'clock Dr Chequers and I take off our make-up and change our clothes. We're totally exhausted. Sometimes I have a night out with friends, it helps me unwind. When I finally fall into bed, I crash out. At weekends we are often asked to participate in events to raise money for *Theodora Children's Trust*. It's a charity; so we are paid with the money people give. Being a clown doctor makes the worries of everyday life seem small. All in all, I feel privileged to do this job.



Language work

- 6 Find lines in the text which mean the same as the following.
- 1 They're running about shouting.
 - 2 I have a happy personality.
 - 3 We would be no help at all.
 - 4 I'm always thinking about her.
 - 5 I go out for the evening with friends.
 - 6 It helps me relax.
 - 7 I go to bed and immediately fall into a deep sleep.
 - 8 I am lucky to have this job.
- 7 Read the interview with Lucy (L). Complete the interviewer's (I) questions.

- I _____?
- L Oh yes, I do. I enjoy my job very much.
- I _____?
- L Because I love working with children and making them laugh.
- I _____?
- L I wear crazy clothes. A fancy coat and stripy tights.
- I _____?
- L Well, at the moment I'm working with a very sick little girl from Bosnia. She's had so many operations. She's very special to me.
- I _____?
- L No, she doesn't. We communicate through laughter.
- I _____?
- L Yes, it is. It's very tiring indeed. I'm exhausted at the end of each day.
- I _____?
- L No, I don't. I often go out with friends. I have the best friends and the best job in the world.

T 2.6 Listen and compare your answers. Are your questions exactly the same? What are the differences?

What do you think?

Discuss the questions in groups.

- What are some of the good and bad points about being a clown doctor?
- What kind of jobs make people happiest?
- When are you happiest? At work? At home? With friends?
- What were your happiest times last year?
- It's often said 'laughter is the best medicine'. Do you agree?