

# An ER Visit

## Pre-reading

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



[www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov) image

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? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. When should the ER be is used? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
3. When should the ER not be used? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the word **immediate** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Besides the ER, where can a person receive medical help? (List two places.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

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

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

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