

I. Прочитайте и переведите текст на русский язык.

Sources, forms and storage of drugs

Drugs are chemical substances used in medicine in the treatment of diseases. These chemical substances can come from many different sources. They can be obtained from various parts of plants, such as leaves, flowers, fruit, stems, roots and rhizomes. Examples of such medicines are digitalis from a plant called foxglove, antibiotics (penicillin and streptomycin) from a plant called mold. Some drugs may be of animal origin. They are produced from the blood, serum, bile and other tissues and organs of animals.

Some drugs are synthesized in the laboratory (methotrexate and prednisone). Vitamins are obtained from food substances. Mineral waters, salts and other natural substances are also used as drugs.

Drugs are produced in hard, soft and liquid forms. Hard forms of drugs are tablets, pills and powders. Soft forms are oils, ointments, creams and so on. Liquid forms of drugs are solutions, mixtures, infusions, decoctions, tinctures etc. Gases, vapours and aerosols are also used in medicine.

Drugs are kept in bottles, boxes, parcels, tubes, ampoules and jars. Every small bottle or a box has a label with the name of medicine stuck on it. There are labels of three colors. White ones are stuck to indicate drugs for internal use. Yellow labels indicate drugs for external use and blue labels show drugs that should be used for injections. The dose to be taken and directions for the administration are also written on the label. Nurses, doctors and patients themselves must not confuse different medicines because some of them are poisonous and their overdosage may cause an untoward reaction and sometimes even death.

II. Answer the questions:

1. What are drugs?
2. What sources can drugs come from?
3. What forms are drugs produced in?
4. How are drugs stored?
5. What is written on the label of each drug?
6. Why must not doctors, nurses and patients confuse different medicines?
7. What reaction may the overdosage of the drug cause?