

Warm up Questions

➤ **REMEDIES:**

Look at the list of medicines. How do you feel about each one? Which do you trust and which do you not trust? Rank them in your order of preference. Show your ranking to your partner and talk about it.

- prescription medicines
- over-the-counter medicines
- herbal medicines
- aromatherapy
- hypnosis
- acupuncture
- let nature take its course
- surgery

➤ **COUNTERFEIT:**

Look at the list below. Which things would you buy/use.

- counterfeit medicine
- counterfeit money
- pirated software
- fake designer goods
- pirated CD/DVD/MP3
- counterfeit art

➤ **MEDICINE:**

Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with medicine. Share your words.

Are you sure your pills are safe?



Shocking news was announced from the United Nations. Apparently up to fifty per cent of prescription medicines sold in developing world pharmacies are fake.

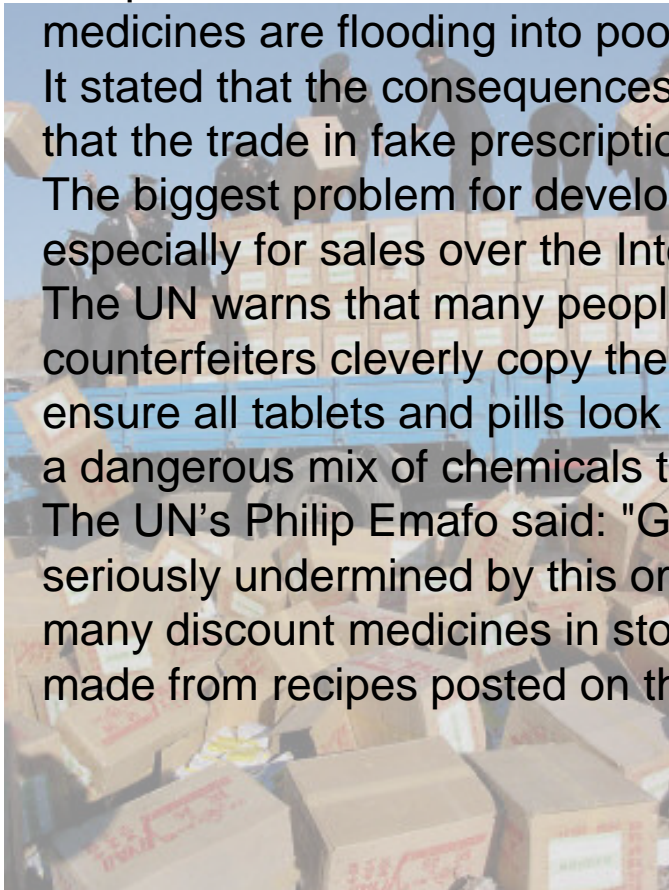
A report from the International Narcotics Control Board, the UN drugs watchdog, said fake medicines are flooding into poorer countries.

It stated that the consequences of people taking these drugs can be deadly. It also warned that the trade in fake prescription drugs may soon overtake the trade in illegal drugs.

The biggest problem for developing countries is that their laws are too old to control the flood, especially for sales over the Internet and those delivered by mail.

The UN warns that many people will die as a result of taking the fake drugs. The counterfeiters cleverly copy the details on the packaging and labeling of the medicine and ensure all tablets and pills look identical to the real thing. However, the fake medicine is often a dangerous mix of chemicals that can kill or cause serious injury.

The UN's Philip Emafo said: "Gains over the past years in international drug control may be seriously undermined by this ominous development if it remains unchecked". He warned that many discount medicines in stores or online often seem to be authentic but turn out to be made from recipes posted on the Web.



LESSON 10

Comprehension Questions

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What do you think of the counterfeiters?
3. Do you ever worry the medicine you take might cause you more harm than good?
4. Do you think the UN's drugs watchdog is effective?
5. What can people in developing countries do to protect themselves against fake drugs?
6. Do you think law enforcement agencies will ever be able to stop the trade in illegal and fake prescription drugs?
7. What kind of help should rich countries give to poor countries?
8. What kind of punishment do you think the counterfeiters should receive?
9. Would you ever buy medicine over the Internet?
10. Do you think there might be fake drugs in your local pharmacy?
11. Did you like reading this article?
12. When was the last time you took medicine?
13. What can medicine companies do to make it more difficult for counterfeiters to copy their drugs?
14. Will you think twice the next time your doctor gives you a prescription?
15. What can the UN do to fight this problem?
16. What can you do to help fight this problem?
17. Are you surprised that the recipes for many medicines are on the Web?
18. What question would you like to ask a counterfeiter?
19. What do you think the counterfeiter's answer would be?
20. Did you like this discussion?