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Vocabulary: medicine 词汇: 药物

If you live in England and have a mild **infection**, don't ask your **GP** to recommend **antibiotics**. He'll probably say 'no' and give you something else. This is part of an initiative to put a stop to harmful infections becoming resistant to these drugs.

Recent figures from the **NHS** have shown that the number of **prescriptions** for all types of antibiotics were down by 7.3% on the previous year to about 34 million in 2015 and 2016, which is considered a success by the authorities.

Peter Taylor, Professor of **Microbiology**, UCL School of **Pharmacy**, says that antibiotics are probably "the safest and most effective drugs ever produced, but they have an **Achilles heel** - every time we use an antibiotic it alters the levels of bacteria out there in the environment and engenders resistance in a way that is very similar to **Darwinian natural selection**".

The power of these substances was discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928 almost by chance. The Scottish **bacteriologist** returned to his laboratory after a holiday to find a bacteria-free circle around a growth of **mould** on a **Petri dish**. It gave us our first antibiotic: **penicillin**.

The availability of these drugs revolutionised the treatment of infections. In the past **STIs** spread by bacteria were often **incurable** and deadly. Today all it takes to treat them is a trip to the clinic and a course of antibiotics. Childbirth was very dangerous and routinely ended in death for both mother and baby. Now the risk of a woman dying in England and Wales during **labour** is between 40 and 50 times lower than 60 years ago.

Bacteria will continue to evolve to seek survival and we have to up our game. There hasn't been a new class of antibiotics since the 1980s and **pharmaceutical** companies are looking into a wide-range of alternatives – from compound from insects to **nanotechnology** - to develop new weapons in the continuous war against **superbugs**.



词汇表

infection	感染
GP (general practitioner)	全科医生, 普通医师
antibiotics	抗生素
NHS (National Health Service)	全民医疗服务制度
prescription	处方, 药方
microbiology	微生物学
pharmacy	药店, (此处指) 药剂学
Achilles heel	致命弱点, 致命伤
Darwinian natural selection	达尔文的自然选择 (学说)
bacteriologist	细菌学家
mould	霉, 霉菌
Petri dish	皮氏培养皿
penicillin	盘尼西林, 青霉素
STI (sexually-transmitted infections)	性传播疾病
incurable	无法治愈的
labour	分娩
pharmaceutical	制药的
nanotechnology	纳米技术
superbug	超级病菌

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why won't doctors give you antibiotics if your illness is not very serious?
2. How does Professor Peter Taylor describe the weakness in antibiotics?
3. True or false? *Alexander Fleming expected the fungus to kill bacteria when he returned to his laboratory.*
4. How much safer has childbirth become in the last few decades?
5. Which two words in the text include prefixes meaning "very small"?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My brother is going to university. He wants to study _____.

bacteriologist	pharmaceutical	pharmacy	a course of antibiotics
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2. I've got a bad rash on my elbow. The doctor will give me a _____ for a very effective ointment.

antibiotic	Petri dish	mould	prescription
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3. In the past it was very difficult to cure _____.

childbirth	penicillin	STIs	labour
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4. The doctor told me he has to operate on me tomorrow. That's the only way to treat my illness - there's no _____.

availability	Achilles heel	resistance	alternative
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5. Mark spent his first year at university partying and having fun. If he wants to get a diploma he has to _____ and study more.

up his game	be my game	game up	win the game
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why won't doctors give you antibiotics if your illness is not very serious?
Because the constant use of antibiotics make bacteria develop a resistance to them.
2. How does Professor Peter Taylor describe the weakness in antibiotics?
He says they have an "Achilles heel".
3. True or false? *Alexander Fleming expected the fungus to kill bacteria when he returned to his laboratory.*
False. He discovered the bacteria-killing power of the fungus by chance.
4. How much safer has childbirth become in the last few decades?
The risk of a woman dying in England and Wales during childbirth is between 40 and 50 times lower than 60 years ago.
5. Which two words in the text include prefixes meaning "very small"?
MICRObiologist, NANOtechnology.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My brother is going to university. He wants to study **pharmacy**.
2. I've got a bad rash on my elbow. The doctor will give me a **prescription** for a very effective ointment.
3. In the past it was very difficult to cure **STIs**.
4. The doctor told me he has to operate on me tomorrow. That's the only way to treat my illness - there's no **alternative**.
5. Mark spent his first year at university partying and having fun. If he wants to get a diploma he has to **up his game** and study more.