

WHILE READING

- 4 Read the article and say whether the statements below are true (T), false (F) or the article does not say (DNS).
- 1 The majority of countries use alternative rather than conventional medicine. _____
 - 2 Homeopathy is currently available through the British National Health Service. _____
 - 3 In the UK, people currently have a choice as to what treatment they can get. _____
 - 4 More than two-thirds of doctors in Britain are against homeopathy. _____
 - 5 Traditional Indian doctors frequently used homeopathic remedies. _____
 - 6 The British National Health Service was established within the last 50 years. _____
 - 7 Homeopathy is the only type of healthcare available in the US. _____
 - 8 Weak, diluted liquids are a common form of homeopathic treatment. _____

IDENTIFYING OPINIONS

5 Which of the two people in the article would agree with the statements below?

| | Abigail Hayes | Piers Wehner |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| 1 The doctor says it's too late to help her now. If only she'd gone to see him earlier. | | |
| 2 Look, if I don't want to risk the side effects of drugs, why should I have to? | | |
| 3 When I see proper clinical trials that prove the effectiveness of homeopathy, then I'll change my mind. | | |
| 4 The mind has incredibly strong healing powers. | | |
| 5 If it means we could stop paying all that money to drug companies, then I'm for it. | | |
| 6 It worked. I don't know why. It doesn't seem possible but I'm just happy that it worked. | | |
| 7 This is serious. You've got to see a doctor. You can keep taking the homeopathic treatment as well, if you want. | | |
| 8 If three-quarters of professionals are against it, I'm against it. | | |

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

- 6 Work with a partner. Discuss possible reasons for the statements below.
- 1 Homeopathic treatment is much cheaper than conventional medicine.
 - 2 The government is considering cutting funding for homeopathy.
 - 3 Belief is as powerful as medicine.
 - 4 Personal care and attention make people feel better.
 - 5 There is no real proof that homeopathy works.
 - 6 Doctors need to see scientific evidence.

DISCUSSION

- 7 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions below.
- 1 Why do you think alternative medicines are popular with some people?
 - 2 Should alternative medicines like homeopathy be funded by the government?
 - 3 Do you think alternative medicine only creates a 'placebo effect'?

READING 2

PREPARING TO READ

1 Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box.

labour costs premium burden regardless deducted consultation treatment safety net

- 1 A _____ is something difficult or unpleasant that you have to deal with or worry about.
 - 2 After three months of _____, the patient can now walk well.
 - 3 Everybody must pay their share, _____ of how much they earn.
 - 4 It is a good idea to save some money as a _____, just in case you lose your job.
 - 5 The doctor examined me when I went to him for a _____.
 - 6 The money you owe the company will be _____ from your salary.
 - 7 When you calculate the price of constructing a building, you have to consider materials and _____.
 - 8 You have to pay an insurance _____ every month.
- 2 Work with a partner. Answer the questions below.
- 1 Do you have to pay for healthcare in your country?
 - 2 What healthcare provision, if any, does your government pay for?
 - 3 Should everybody be able to access free healthcare?
 - 4 How should healthcare be funded – privately or by the state?