EPISODE 241

U.S. Public Healthcare

Full transcript · point of view · vocabulary review

Hi! I'm Georgiana, your English teacher. Thanks for joining me for a new Speak English Now podcast episode.

Okay, let's start!

Are you curious about how the **healthcare system** works in the U.S.? In this episode,

I will explain the basics of the American **healthcare system**.

There is not one universal **system** but a range of **public** and private insurance options. I will lay out how these plans work so that you can gain a better understanding.

And yes. Contrary to what some people assume, **public** health care exists in the USA. There are several **public** systems, both federal and state.

All Americans must have **health insurance** or face a federal offense. Therefore, everyone should be properly insured.

If someone is unemployed, they may be **eligible** for federal or state public insurance programs to help them access the necessary health care services.

Let's find out more about public health in the U.S.

In 1965, the federal government created **Medicare** and **Medicaid**, which provided health **coverage** to the elders and the poorest segments of the population.

What are Medicare and Medicaid?

Medicare is a federal health insurance program primarily available to people 65 or older, certain younger people with disabilities, or people with End-Stage Renal Disease.

Medicaid offers health insurance to countless Americans, such as eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. States must follow federal rules while running the program, which is funded by both state and federal money.

Other programs, such as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), is a federal-state partnership program administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Children's Health Insurance Program provides health insurance coverage to low-income children and pregnant women who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private health insurance.

I hope you found this episode interesting. In the next one, I will continue talking about the **healthcare** in the U.S.

Now, let's practice.

Point of View

Grammar in Context

Read the same story from different points of view and notice how the grammar changes naturally.

First version

Present Tense - Second Person

You are a math teacher being taken to the ER (emergency room) by your students. They assure the nurse that you are having a seizure. So, the nurse looks at you and sees that you are smiling strangely and becomes concerned.

While waiting to be attended to, you start to laugh uncontrollably. Your laughter is so contagious that everyone, even the nurses and doctors, start laughing. After several minutes of uncontrolled laughter, the patients in the waiting room are all in better spirits.

Finally, the doctor examines you. It turns out that you can't stop laughing after seeing the amount of your first paycheck. You quickly realize that being a math teacher pays far less than you expected! This unexpected turn of events causes everyone to burst into laughter once more.

Second version

Present Tense - Third Person

A math teacher named Matt is being taken to the emergency room by his students. The students assure the nurse that the teacher is having a seizure.

The nurse looks at Matt and sees that he is smiling strangely and becomes concerned.

While waiting to be attended to, Matt starts laughing. He laughs so hard that he gets the attention of the other patients.

He has a very contagious laugh, so the patients, and even the nurses and doctors, start laughing. Everyone is laughing!

After several minutes of laughing out loud, many patients go home. They already feel much better.

Finally, the doctor examines the teacher. It turns out that Matt can't stop laughing after seeing what he will be paid for his first paycheck. This unexpected turn of events causes everyone to burst into laughter once more.

Third version

Past Tense - Third Person

Matt was being taken to the ER by his students. They assured the nurse that he was having a seizure. The nurse looked at him and saw that he was smiling strangely and became concerned.

While he waited to be attended to, Matt began to laugh out loud, and his contagious laughter soon had the other patients and even the nurses and doctors laughing.

After several minutes of laughing out loud, many of the patients felt better and were able to go home.

When the doctor examined Matt, he discovered that the teacher was laughing because of how little he was getting paid for his first paycheck. This unexpected turn of events caused everyone to burst into laughter once more.

Thanks for listening, and I'll see you in the next episode.

Review

Vocabulary from This Episode

Review the most useful words and expressions before listening again.

01 **public healthcare** health services funded or provided by government.	05 **eligible** meeting the conditions needed to receive something.
02 **Medicare** a U.S. federal health insurance program mainly for older people.	06 **taxpayer** a person or organization that pays taxes.
03 **Medicaid** a U.S. public health program for eligible low-income people.	07 **medical care** treatment provided by health professionals.
04 **coverage** protection provided by an insurance plan.	08 **health insurance** a plan that helps pay medical costs.

Continue your speaking practice

Build fluency with **guided audio lessons** and mini-stories.

Explore my Premium Courses >

Georgiana
Founder of Speak English Now Podcast
SpeakEnglishPodcast.com