



## Unit 4 — Diagnosis I

### Reading: Diagnosis part 1

For many years medicine has been seen as a profession far removed from glamour and popular culture, but in recent years the TV show Dr House has popularized the world of diagnostic medicine.

Week after week, he unfailingly manages to diagnose even the most unusual of diseases and even has time for some fun and games. However, life in the real world is slightly different.

Diagnostic medicine is predominantly the realm of general practitioners, or family doctors who are usually the first contact between the patient and the medical professionals who are there to cure them. The priority for a GP is to diagnose the patient as quickly and accurately as possible, and to do this they will need to examine the patient and study the symptoms which the patient has. If a patient is presenting with a rash, then there is a good chance the doctor is looking at nothing more serious than an allergic reaction.

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## Discussion Questions

Why do you think medical TV shows like Dr House are so popular?

What difficulties do you think general practitioners face in diagnosing patients?

Have you ever received a diagnosis you didn't agree with? What happened?