

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **temperature**
- **heartbeat**
- **operation**
- **medicine**



Who Works in a Hospital?

by Tiffany Gibson

1 A hospital is a busy place! It may even seem confusing at first. Many patients, the people who need to see a doctor, come in every day. Visitors come to see their sick family member or friend. Doctors, nurses, and other hospital workers move calmly from job to job. They know just what to do. They want to give sick or hurt patients the care they need.



- 2 The hospital medical staff is made up of teams of doctors and nurses. Doctors must examine patients to find the best way to make them better. They check each patient's temperature and heartbeat. They also ask lots of questions. Then doctors think up plans to make each patient better. Some patients will need special medicine. Other patients may need to have an operation. A person who is sick or hurt must stay in the hospital for a few days.
- 3 Nurses take care of patients who are in the hospital. Some nurses help doctors with operations or special tests. They make sure patients improve each day. They check that the patients are getting better with the right medicine.
- 4 There are other workers who help the hospital run smoothly. Some workers give X-rays to find out if someone has a broken bone. Others carry out tests to find out why a patient is sick. Some workers make healthy meals or keep hospital rooms clean.
- 5 Hospital workers do many different jobs, but they all work together. And they work hard! Their goal is to give all patients the care they need to get better.



Think Using what you learned by reading “Who Works in a Hospital?,” respond to the following questions.

- 1** What is the meaning of the word “patients”? Write what “patients” means based on the clues in the sentence.

Many patients, the people who need to see a doctor, come in every day.

- 2** What is the meaning of the phrase “medical staff” in paragraph 2?

- A** people who keep files of plans
- B** people who treat the sick
- C** people who keep things clean
- D** people who prepare meals

- 3** Read these sentences from paragraph 2 of the passage.

Doctors must examine patients to find the best way to make them better. They check each patient’s temperature and heartbeat. They also ask lots of questions.

What does the word “examine” mean?

- A** make plans for
- B** do surgery on
- C** give medicine to
- D** check over carefully

- 4 The following question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Use the chart to write the clues for the phrase “hospital workers.” Write the phrase in the first box. After you write the clues, write what you think the phrase means.

Phrase:	
Clue	
Meaning	

Part B

What is the goal of all the hospital workers?

- A** to check that the patients are getting better
- B** to give the patients the care they need to get better
- C** to check each patient’s temperature and heartbeat
- D** to keep files about the doctors’ plans

5 In paragraph 3, the author says, "They make sure patients improve each day." What does the word "improve" mean? Write a sentence from the passage that gives a clue about the meaning of the word "improve."

Write what you think the word "improve" means.



Write Why is a hospital a busy place?

6 Plan Your Response The title of the passage is "Who Works in a Hospital?" It begins with the sentence "A hospital is a busy place!" Find clues in the passage that tell why it is a busy place.

Busy Place

Clue One	Clue Two	Clue Three

7 Write an Extended Response Write about the information you found to tell why a hospital is a busy place.
