

# UNIT **3** *Read and Write*



## **En esta unidad vas a:**

- leer un artículo sobre los resultados de un estudio acerca de las series televisivas de hospitales
- aprender a escribir en inglés utilizando sinónimos del verbo say.

# Don't worry, doctor, I'm an expert!

**H**ave you noticed that no matter when you switch on the television you're likely to be watching either the beginning or the end of a hospital drama? As proof of their popularity, the number of hospital dramas on our screens, such as *Casualty*, which is set in an Accident and Emergency department, has been increasing in recent years. But it seems that these hospital dramas are more than just entertaining. A report has found that viewers also consider dramas to be a useful tool for learning about first aid.

The report was written after considerable research. There were twenty group discussions carried out throughout the country. The majority of these groups were made up of the general public, and the rest contained medical professionals including doctors, psychologists, nurses and paramedics. These group discussions were followed by a survey in which over 2,500 television viewers were interviewed either on the telephone or online. During the interviews a number of people voiced the opinion that they had learnt enough from medical programmes to be able to deal with a patient in an emergency situation.

The report highlights the case of a Birmingham paramedic who arrived at the scene of an incident to find a member of the public insisting that he knew how to do an emergency operation with a pen. 'You put it in the chest then turn it around. Then the air comes out. I saw it on *Casualty*,' he explained. Another paramedic declared that he'd seen a man deal with a patient having a fit by putting



a coin in her mouth. 'This guy had obviously seen an actor on TV putting something in a patient's mouth to stop her biting her tongue.' The paramedic alleged that the man's action had endangered the patient's life. 'Not only was she having a fit, she was also choking. The situation would have been easier to deal with if the man had done nothing at all.'

A spokeswoman for the Ambulance Service confirmed that paramedics are often employed as consultants for medical dramas. This is because the programmes are likely to have an impact on the public. However, TV producers maintain that viewers would lose interest in the show if it was an authentic representation of hospital life. As one participant in the survey stated, 'If everything was totally realistic, it would be boring. You might as well just go to your local hospital and sit and watch.'

The authors concluded in their report that the growing trend of the general public thinking they are first aid experts is worrying. ■

**1 Relaciona las preguntas (1-6) con las respuestas (a-f).**



- 1 Where is the hospital drama *Casualty* set?
  - 2 How many group discussions were carried out?
  - 3 Who took part in the discussions apart from medical professionals?
  - 4 What did the first man suggest using to perform the operation?
  - 5 What did the second man put in the patient's mouth?
  - 6 Which medical professionals act as consultants for hospital dramas?
- a Paramedics.  
 b A coin.  
 c In an Accident and Emergency department.  
 d The general public.  
 e 20.  
 f A pen.

**1 c**   **2** \_\_\_\_   **3** \_\_\_\_   **4** \_\_\_\_   **5** \_\_\_\_   **6** \_\_\_\_

**2 Indica si las siguientes afirmaciones son verdaderas (true) o falsas (false).**

- 1 Hospital dramas aren't as popular as they used to be. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Some viewers think they can learn about first aid by watching hospital dramas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 There were no representatives from the medical profession in the group discussions. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Over 2,500 interviews were held over the phone or online. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 In the first incident, a member of the public thought he could perform an operation with a pen. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 In the second incident, someone tried to help a patient by putting something in her chest. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Paramedics are often asked for advice during the making of hospital dramas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Hospital dramas are an authentic representation of real life. \_\_\_\_\_

Words to remember

**3 Busca las palabras en el texto.**

People who watch TV (paragraph 1).  
**viewers**



- 1 An instrument that you use for doing something (paragraph 1).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- 2 Emergency medical help (paragraph 1).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- 3 An ordinary person in society (paragraph 3).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- 4 To use your teeth to cut into something (paragraph 3).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- 5 The thing in your mouth that you use for speaking (paragraph 3).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- 6 To be unable to breathe because of a blockage (paragraph 3).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



- 7 People who are employed to give advice (paragraph 4).  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Using synonyms of the verb say**

Los verbos *voice* (expresar, manifestar), *insist* (insistir), *explain* (explicar), *declare* (declarar), *allege* (afirmar, alegar), *confirm* (confirmar) y *state* (decir, afirmar) se pueden utilizar como sinónimos del verbo *say* para relatar hechos.

**A number of people voiced the opinion that they had learnt a lot from medical programmes.**

Cierto número de personas manifestó haber aprendido mucho viendo series de médicos.

**The man insisted he knew how to do the operation.**

El hombre insistía en que sabía realizar la operación.

**'I saw it on *Casualty*,' he explained.**

'Lo vi en *Casualty*', explicó.

**Another paramedic declared that he'd seen a man deal with a patient having a fit by putting a coin in the patient's mouth.**

Otro auxiliar sanitario declaró haber visto a un hombre atender a una paciente con un ataque de epilepsia poniéndole una moneda en la boca.

**The paramedic alleged that the man's action had endangered the patient's life.**

El auxiliar sanitario afirmó que la intervención del individuo había puesto en peligro la vida de la paciente.

**She confirmed that paramedics are often employed as consultants.**

Confirmó que a menudo se contrata a auxiliares sanitarios como asesores.

**One man stated, 'If everything was totally realistic, it would be boring.'**

Un hombre afirmó: 'Si todo se ajustara completamente a la realidad, resultaría aburrido'.

**1 Vuelve a escribir las frases sustituyendo *said* con el *past simple* de los verbos entre paréntesis.**



The customer *said* that she'd left her mobile phone on the table. (explain)

**The customer explained that she'd left her mobile phone on the table.**

- 1 He *said* that the company laptop had been stolen by a colleague. (allege)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 The judge *said* that the defendant was guilty of murder. (declare)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 She *said* that the mugger had threatened her with a knife. (state)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 He *said* that he hadn't drunk any alcohol before driving home. (insist)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 She *said* that she'd been married to the suspect for ten years. (confirm)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Completa el texto utilizando sinónimos del verbo *say*.**



The second paramedic **confirmed** that the woman who was having a fit also had a coin inside her mouth.

He **1** a\_\_\_\_\_ that a member of the public had put it there. 'The man **2** i\_\_\_\_\_ that the coin would stop the patient from biting her tongue,' **3** e\_\_\_\_\_ the paramedic. 'In fact, the coin put the woman's life in danger as she nearly choked on it,' he **4** s\_\_\_\_\_. The paramedic also **5** v\_\_\_\_\_ his concern about the danger of TV viewers carrying out what they see in hospital dramas in real life. 'The general public don't usually have any medical training. Without any knowledge of first aid, they're more likely to make the situation worse rather than help to improve a patient's condition,' he **6** d\_\_\_\_\_.