

Vaccines and Vaccination:  
Tigard English Language Learning for Adults  
February 8, 2021

(Notice the “s” added to vaccine and “tion” added to vaccinate.  
The same pattern changes “imagine” into “imagination”!)

1. Whole Group Warm-up

What vaccines have you received in your lifetime?

Has your travel ever required vaccinations?

Do you believe they are safe?

2. Whole Group (continue in Breakout Groups) Make a K/W/L chart. (There is a KWL blank chart at tiella.org taken from this link: [K/W/L chart.](#))

- In the first column, write down two or three things you **know** about vaccines.
- In the center column, write down two or three things you **want to know** about vaccines.
- *Later in the lesson*, in the third column, write down a few new things you have **learned** about vaccines.

3. Whole Group Short video

[“How Do Vaccines Work?”](#) Watch this video. We will pause it often to help with understanding the English. The video has captions. Use the video to make entries on your KWL chart:

- In the third column on the KWL chart, enter something you learned from the video.
- In the middle column, write any new questions you have about vaccines.

4. Breakout Group Reading: Clinical Trial of a Covid-19 Vaccine

Clinical Trial: Vaccines are first proven safe, then tested to find out how well they work. *How do scientists study the effectiveness of a vaccine?* In July, Pfizer and BioNTech started a clinical trial on a coronavirus vaccine. They compared the effects of the vaccine with the effects of a “**placebo**.” Half of the people got a shot of the vaccine, while the other half got a shot without any vaccine. No one

could tell the shots apart. The companies then waited for people to get sick to determine if the vaccine offered any protection.

Effectiveness/Efficacy: In clinical trials, the data is “**blinded**.” No one except the people on an independent board — not the volunteers, not the doctors — not the companies — knew how many of the 94 people sickened by the virus got the vaccine or the placebo. 94 participants out of nearly 44,000 became sick with Covid-19.

Scientists compared:

- how many who became ill with Covid-19 that had received the vaccine with
- how many who became ill with Covid-19 that had received the placebo (and no vaccine).

Very few people who were vaccinated got Covid-19. The board concluded that the vaccine was over 90 percent effective.

The Food and Drug Administration had set a bar of 50 percent “efficacy” for vaccine makers who wanted to submit their Covid-19 vaccines for emergency use.

Other vaccine effectiveness: Influenza vaccines are 40 to 60 percent effective at best, because the influenza virus keeps **mutating** into new forms year after year. Two doses of the measles vaccine are 97 percent effective.

A question for the KWL chart: *Does the Covid-19 virus mutate?*

Modified from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/11/learning/lesson-of-the-day-pfizers-covid-vaccine-11-things-you-need-to-know.html>

5. Whole Group Conclusion: Find your Covid-19 vaccination group at <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>