
28 *Asking about Health*

When an Englishman asks you about your health, he is probably only doing so out of politeness. Unless he knows you have been ill, he is certainly not expecting a detailed medical report, and will be most surprised if you give him one.

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
A	How's your father keeping?	Where's Tony this evening?	How's your brother these days?	I haven't seen Bob lately. How is he?
B	He's been off work for a day or two.	He's not feeling very well.	He hasn't been too well just recently.	As a matter of fact, he's laid up. ¹
A	What's wrong with him?	Really? What's the trouble?	I'm sorry to hear that. What's the matter?	Oh dear! What's up with him?
B	He's gone down with a cold.	I think he must have eaten something.	I think he's been over-working.	We don't know, but we're having the doctor in tomorrow.
A	Tell him I hope he soon feels better.	Give him my regards and tell him to take things easy.	I hope he soon gets over it.	Let me know if there's anything I can do.
B	That's very kind of you. I'll pass it on.	Thank you very much. I'll tell him what you said.	Thank you. He'll be pleased to hear you asked after him.	Thanks very much. I'll tell him you inquired about him.

¹laid up: ill