

U.K. leader thanks nurses for saving his life

15th April, 2020



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The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, has thanked his country's National Health Service for saving his life. Mr Johnson, 55, tested positive for COVID-19 on March the 27th. He self-isolated in his apartment in Downing Street, London and continued to lead the

country and its response to the coronavirus pandemic. However, his symptoms persisted and his condition took a turn for the worse. On April the 5th, he was admitted to a London hospital for tests. A day later he was moved to the hospital's intensive care unit as his condition worsened. Downing Street said this was a "precautionary move". He remained conscious and was able to breathe without needing a ventilator.

Mr Johnson said the care he received from nurses, doctors and other carers was "exemplary". He said: "I can't thank them enough. I owe them my life." He is now out of intensive care and is on a recovery ward in the hospital. Downing Street said he was making "very good progress" and had been doing Sudoku puzzles and watching films in his hospital bed. His biographer Andrew Gimson said: "Boris never used to believe in illness. He neither admitted to sickness himself....He believed he was strong enough to keep going regardless of any symptoms from which he might be suffering. His strong inclination was to overwork, not to put his feet up. In the light of his experiences one hopes he will change his outlook."

Sources: [sky.com](https://www.sky.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)

Writing

Nurses are the biggest heroes in our society. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

thanks / health service / life / self-isolating / pandemic / symptom / hospital / breathe nurses / intensive care / progress / puzzles / sickness / overwork / experience / light

True / False

- a) Mr Johnson contracted COVID-19 in early April. T / F
- b) Mr Johnson stopped leading the coronavirus task force immediately. T / F
- c) Mr Johnson was taken to an intensive care unit a day after he had tests. T / F
- d) Mr Johnson spent a day on a ventilator. T / F
- e) Mr Johnson said the care he received from nurses was exemplary. T / F
- f) Mr Johnson said he owes his life to the National Health Service. T / F
- g) A biographer said Mr Johnson didn't use to believe in illness. T / F
- h) A biographer said Mr Johnson liked to put his feet up. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. apartment | a. perfect |
| 2. persisted | b. tendency |
| 3. condition | c. requiring |
| 4. conscious | d. be indebted to |
| 5. needing | e. flat |
| 6. exemplary | f. health |
| 7. owe | g. acknowledged |
| 8. admitted to | h. awake |
| 9. inclination | i. relax |
| 10. put one's feet up | j. continued |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What work does a nurse do?
- c) Do you have what it takes to be a nurse?
- d) How strong are you in fighting disease?
- e) What three adjectives best describe nurses?
- f) Should governments increase spending on health after the pandemic?
- g) Will your outlook change after the pandemic is over?
- h) What questions would you like to ask nurses on the front line?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mr Johnson, 55, tested | a. the worse |
| 2. turn for | b. needing a ventilator |
| 3. he was moved to the hospital's | c. progress |
| 4. his condition | d. my life |
| 5. able to breathe without | e. experiences |
| 6. I owe them | f. worsened |
| 7. in a recovery | g. positive for COVID-19 |
| 8. making very good | h. of any symptoms |
| 9. keep going regardless | i. intensive care unit |
| 10. In the light of his | j. ward in the hospital |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Boris Johnson?
- What do you think of a world leading getting COVID-19?
- How is your leader dealing with COVID-19?
- How good is your country's health service?
- What do you think of nurses in hospitals right now?
- What do you know about the symptoms of COVID-19?
- What can you do to stay safe in this pandemic?
- What advice do you have for nurses?

Spelling

- He self-ildaoest in his apartment
- his omstpsym persisted
- eniisntev care unit
- this was a cyapnrtrieoua move
- He remained cosncsoui
- breathe without needing a vteotnirla
- ...and other carers was earmplyex
- on a oycrveer ward
- His erihagrbp Andrew Gimson
- He neither eatimddt to sickness himself
- keep going lrgdsersae
- His strong clntioinian was to overwork

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. f	4. h	5. c
6. a	7. d	8. g	9. b	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Nurses

You think nurses are the most important workers in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their staff aren't as important. Also, tell the others who are the least important of these (and why): surgeons, managers or admin staff.

Role B – Surgeons

You think surgeons are the most important workers in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their staff aren't as important. Also, tell the others who are the least important of these (and why): nurses, managers or admin staff.

Role C – Managers

You think managers are the most important workers in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their staff aren't as important. Also, tell the others who are the least important of these (and why): surgeons, nurses or admin staff.

Role D – Admin Staff

You think admin staff are the most important workers in a hospital. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their staff aren't as important. Also, tell the others who are the least important of these (and why): surgeons, managers or nurses.

Speaking – Hospitals

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important people in hospitals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Cleaners | • Nurses |
| • Nutritionists | • Doctors |
| • Managers | • Surgeons |
| • Admin staff | • Anaesthetists |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.