

## NURSING

Lexile 550

Nursing is a very old and important profession. A profession is a job. Millions of people are nurses. Nurses work in many places and have many tasks. Nurses can choose from different kinds of work. Their main job is to help and care for others. They may help babies who were just born. They may help people who are sick or hurt. They may help *people* who are old. These jobs all require special skills. Nurses usually go to school to learn about nursing. The nursing profession is likely to grow for many years.

### What Do Nurses Do?

Nursing is an important job. It is also a common job. Millions of people work as nurses. The population is getting older. All the people in the world make up the **population**. These older people need care. They will need help from even more nurses in the future. The profession of nursing will probably get even bigger in the coming years.

Nurses work in many different places. They may work in doctor's offices, hospitals, or clinics. Clinics are places where people go for special kinds of help. Nurses may work in people's homes or group homes. Some nurses are teachers or writers. Nurses help everyone from babies to elderly people. People who are **elderly** are old. Nurses can help people in many ways. They can make people's lives happier and healthier.

People who become nurses can choose from many professions. They can take different kinds of jobs. They can find jobs they are good at and like to do. Many people start as nursing assistants. An assistant is a person who helps another person do a job. Nursing assistants are sometimes called CNAs. They must finish high school and pass a special nursing test. Many nursing students continue going to school to learn about nursing. Some of them become registered nurses or RNs. They must get special degrees and pass more tests. Degrees are high levels of learning.

### Nurse Practitioners

Many nurses become nurse practitioners or NPs. These nurses are great at caring for people. They also have a lot of medical training. Medical means using medicine and helping people who are sick or injured. Nurse practitioners can do some of the jobs doctors usually do.

These nurses can figure out what is wrong with a patient. A **patient** is someone who needs help. Nurse practitioners can give medicine and treatment as needed. During their work, they also give special care to patients. They help teach people about health and make laws and rules about health.

## Clinical Nurse Specialists

Some nurses become clinical nurse specialists. These nurses have high degrees in nursing. They often pick a certain skill to learn about. They become very good at helping certain kinds of patients or treating certain problems.

These nurses may only work with children or teenagers. They may choose to work with older people. They may only deal with a specific disease. They may choose to work with problems of the mind. Some nurse specialists work in critical care places. Critical care means caring for people whose lives are in danger.



*Sheldon Whitehouse, US Senator; Public domain, via wikimedia commons.*

## Certified Nurse-Midwives

Some nurses only work with pregnant women and babies. These nurses are often certified **nurse-midwives**. This kind of nursing requires a high-level degree. These nurses study how women have babies. They learn about the special health needs of babies when they are first born.

Nurse-midwives often work with entire families. They help people learn about babies and giving birth. They may also help the mother after the baby is born.

## Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

Many nurses become certified registered nurse anesthetists or CRNAs. These nurses give anesthesia to patients. Anesthesia is a special medicine. It can make patients fall asleep or not feel pain.

Patients often get this medicine when they have surgery. People who have surgery are operated on. These nurses must have high-level degrees. They must know all about anesthesia and other medicines to keep patients safe.

## Nursing Through Time

Nursing has been an important job for thousands of years. At first, most nurses were women. Today, both women and men are nurses. Nurses long ago had very difficult jobs. They did not know much about health or sickness. They did not have good tools or medicines. Many patients were terribly sick and nobody knew why.

Luckily, nursing has become much better. Today, nurses know a lot about sickness and health. They know about medicine and tools to help people feel better. Nurses around the world help millions of people.

## Bibliography

### Reference Books

- Bishop, Anne H. and John R. Scudder, Jr. *Nursing: The Practice of Caring*. National League for Nursing Press, 1991. This book gives a good overview of the nursing profession.
- Watson, Jean. *Nursing: Human Science and Human Care: A Theory of Nursing*. Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 1999. This book is about different views and ideas about nursing.

### Websites

- “American Nursing: An Introduction to the Past.” *University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing*. <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/nhhc/american-nursing-an-introduction-to-the-past/>. Web. 8 Apr. 2019. This website discusses the history of nursing.
- “Careers in Nursing.” *RNtoBSN*, 2019. <https://www.rntobsn.org/careers/>. Web. 8 Apr. 2019. This website describes different fields of nursing.
- “History of Nursing— Things Every Nurse Should Know.” *Geriatric Nursing*, 2018, <https://geriatricnursing.org/history-of-nursing/>. Web. 8 Apr. 2019. This website discusses nurses of the past.
- “Nursing Career Guide.” *Nursing Explorer*, 2019. <https://www.nursingexplorer.com/careers>. Web. 8 Apr. 2019. This website offers information for people training to be nurses.
- “Nursing Overview.” *Explore Health Careers*, 2018. <https://explorehealthcareers.org/field/nursing/>. Web. 8 Apr. 2019. This website gives general information about the nursing profession.

### ■ By Mark Dziak

*Mark Dziak is a writer of fiction and nonfiction who has been writing educational materials for students of all ages since 2004.*

## COMPREHENSION TEST

### Multiple-Choice Questions

---

1. Nurse-midwives work with
    - A. students.
    - B. babies.
    - C. men.
    - D. surgery.
  2. Who would most likely go to a critical care place?
    - A. someone with sore feet
    - B. someone who is having a baby
    - C. someone with a runny nose
    - D. someone who is badly injured
  3. The letters "RN" stand for
    - A. real nursing.
    - B. registered nurses.
    - C. right nursing.
    - D. ready nurses.
- 

### Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

4. Someone in need of help is a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. All the people in the world make up the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ people are people who are old.

## COMPREHENSION TEST ANSWERS

### Multiple-Choice Questions

---

1. Nurse-midwives work with
    - A. students.
    - B. babies.**
    - C. men.
    - D. surgery.
  2. Who would most likely go to a critical care place?
    - A. someone with sore feet
    - B. someone who is having a baby
    - C. someone with a runny nose
    - D. someone who is badly injured**
  3. The letters "RN" stand for
    - A. real nursing.
    - B. registered nurses.**
    - C. right nursing.
    - D. ready nurses.
- 

### Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

4. Someone in need of help is a patient.
5. All the people in the world make up the population.
6. Elderly people are people who are old.