

**CAREER  
PATHS**

# Paramedics

Jenny Dooley - Alisha Clark (NREMT-P)



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Book

**1**



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## Scope and Sequence

Unit	Topic	Reading context	Vocabulary	Function
1	The Role of a Paramedic	Press release	coordinated, EMS, ER, first responder, health care, hospital, paramedicine, patient, pre-hospital, transport, treatment	Asking for information
2	Parts of the Body 1	Article	abdomen, arm, back, chest, elbow, face, finger, hand, head, neck, shoulder, torso, wrist	Describing a possibility
3	Parts of the Body 2	Report	ankle, buttocks, calf, foot, groin, hip, knee, leg, shin, thigh, toe	Making an assumption
4	The Musculoskeletal System	Textbook chapter	bone, cartilage, connective tissue, cranium, fascia, joint, ligament, muscle, musculoskeletal system, skeleton, spine, tendon	Reviewing answers
5	The Integumentary	Poster	dermis, epidermis, follicle, gland, hair, integumentary system, nail, nerve, organ, skin, subcutaneous	Expressing interest
6	The Respiratory System	Handbook chapter	bronchi, larynx, lower airway, nasopharynx, oropharynx, pharynx, respiratory tract, tongue, trachea, upper	Expressing relief
7	The Circulatory System	Course description	artery, blood, blood vessel, capillary, cardiovascular system, circulatory system, heart, lung, lymph node, lymphatic system, vein	Giving a reminder
8	Blood	Webpage	blood type, compatible, donor, negative, positive, recipient, replenish, transfusion, Type A, Type AB, Type B, Type O	Making a correction
9	The Gastrointestinal	Poster	anus, appendix, bladder, colon, digestion, esophagus, intestine, kidney, liver, pancreas, spleen, stomach	Giving possible reasons
10	Vital Signs	Handbook chapter	ABC, blood pressure, BPM, breathe, obstruction, pulse, respiration, temperature, unconscious, vital signs	Discussing a hypothetical situation
11	Measurements	Poster	Celsius, centimeter, cubic centimeter, degree, drop, Fahrenheit, foot, inch, kilogram, liter, meter, pint, pound, tablespoon, teaspoon	Identifying a problem
12	Describing Change	Report	climb, decline, decrease, expand, fluctuate, increase, plummet, rise, spike, stabilize, steady	Making an observation
13	Tools and Equipment 1	Email	blood pressure cuff, cardiac monitor, defibrillator, ECG, fluid, intubation tube, IV, oxygen tank, stethoscope, thermometer	Describing frequency
14	Tools and Equipment 2	Advertisement	bandage, board, cervical collar, gloves, gurney, mask, needle, scissors, splint, tape, wheelchair	Making a polite request
15	Common EMS Calls	Log	accident, assault, cardiac, condition, emergency, false alarm, geriatric, illness, injury, life-threatening, pediatric, serious, trauma	Giving a description

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**Book**

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## Scope and Sequence

Unit	Topic	Reading context	Vocabulary	Function
1	Parts of an Ambulance	Report	air horn, ambulance, cabin, decal, GPS, gurney, radio, reflector, rotating light, siren, storage, strobe light, warning device	Taking responsibility
2	Ambulance Operations	Email	appropriate, deployment, intersection, park, parking brake, police escort, privilege, right-of-way, secondary stop, speed limit, stationing, traffic, two-second rule	Asking about a condition
3	Incident Assessment	Report	bystander, complaint, general impression, high-risk, internal, medic alert tag, MOI, NOI, patient history, responsive, scene, sustain, symptom, unresponsive	Asking about certainty
4	Triage	Memo	casualty, delayed, immediate, MCI, mental status, minor, non-salvageable, palpable, perfusion, priority, relocate, respiratory compromise, START, tag, triage	Giving reassurance
5	Airway Management	Report	aspiration, carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ), CPR, effort, foreign body airway obstruction, fractured larynx, gasp, laryngeal edema, laryngeal spasm, oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> ), rate, regularity, supplemental oxygen therapy, ventilation	Expressing urgency
6	Shock	Handbook chapter	blood loss, cardiac output, distributive shock, fluid replacement, hemorrhage, hormone, hypoperfusion, hypovolemic shock, shock, spinal shock, topical hemostatic agent, tourniquet	Describing likelihood
7	Musculoskeletal Trauma	Brochure	bear weight, cold pack, dislocation, elevate, fracture, immobilize, manipulation, realign, sling, splint, sprain, strain, swelling	Expressing gratitude
8	Spinal Trauma	Handbook chapter	cervical spine, complete, incomplete, intervertebral disk, ischemia, lesion, paralysis, paraplegia, quadriplegia, sensory loss, spinal column, spinal cord, vertebra	Asking for details
9	Tissue Damage	Email	abrasion, amputation, avulsion, burn, chemical, contusion, crush, first-degree, hematoma, incision, laceration, scar, second-degree, thermal, third-degree, wound	Giving details
10	Thoracic and Abdominal Trauma	Course description	acute abdominal pain, asphyxia, blunt, evisceration, gynecological emergency, hemothorax, hollow organ, penetrating, pleural cavity, pneumothorax, rupture, solid organ, thorax	Giving details
11	Head Trauma	Article	brain injury, concussion, dental, direct, ears, emotional, eyes, indirect, intellectual, maxillofacial, mouth, nose, physical, scalp, senses, skull	Expressing concern
12	Emergencies 1	Guide	aneurism, angina pectoris, ARDS, cardiac arrest, chest pain, clot, coma, defibrillation, degenerative, headache, heart attack, myocardial infarction, neurological, pulmonary embolism, seizure, stroke	Showing understanding
13	Emergencies 2	Dispatch log	allergy, anaphylaxis, behavioral, childbirth, delivery, delusion, dementia, diabetes, immune system, labor, pregnant, psychiatric	Stating a preference
14	Emergencies 3	Handbook chapter	absorption, alcohol, bite, drug abuse, hallucinogen, homicide, ingestion, inhalation, injection, narcotic, opiate, poison, stimulant, sting, suicide	Expressing an opinion
15	Patient Care Reports	Email	assessment, case, CHART, chief complaint, document, history, in detail, patient care report, relevant, Rx, transport, treatment	Describing necessity

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## Scope and Sequence

Unit	Topic	Reading context	Vocabulary	Function
1	Hazardous Conditions	Webpage	chemical, confined space, contaminated, electrical, explosive, fire, heavy lifting, hostile, industrial, intoxicated, noise, radiation, violent	Expressing uncertainty
2	Hazardous Materials	Poster	cold zone, corrosive, flammable, gas, HAZMAT, hot zone, IDLH, label, LD, MSDS, PEL, primary contamination, pulmonary irritant, secondary contamination, warm zone	Expressing concern
3	Diseases	Guide	AIDS, bacterial, disease, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, infectious, meningitis, MRSA, negative, pneumonia, positive, tuberculosis, viral	Talking about possibilities
4	Disease Control	Blog post	airborne, antibiotic, antiseptic, bloodborne, bodily fluid, cure, exposure, germ, mask, person-to-person, treat, vaccine	Expressing amazement
5	Working at Crime Scenes	Article	assailant, blood splatter, caution, crime scene, evidence, fingerprint, observation, preserve, statement, strategic escape plan, threat assessment, victim	Asking for information
6	Advanced Life Support	Course description	12-lead, ACLS, blood chemistry, capnography, cricothyrotomy, intravenous therapy, ITLS, needle decompression, PALS, PHTLS, protocol, tracheal intubation	Making a recommendation
7	Aeromedical Transport	Report	aeromedical transport, aircraft, airlift, crew, ground-to-air communication, helicopter, landing, landing pad, pilot, rapid transport, rural, search and rescue, takeoff, wilderness	Describing an incident
8	Major Incidents	Article	civil disorder, command, communicate, in charge, intelligence sharing, interagency, jurisdiction, major incident, natural disaster, resource, riot, scarce, technical, terrorist, transportation	Asking for clarification
9	Pharmacology 1	Press release	analgesic, chemical name, controlled substance, drug, generic name, hypnotic, medication, non-drowsy, over-the-counter, prescription, psychotropic, sedative, trade name	Trying to recall something
10	Pharmacology 2	Letter	addictive, administer, adverse reaction, dose, drug abuse, duration of action, interaction, loading dose, overdose, psychosis, relieve, side effect, therapeutic range, tolerance, withdrawal	Describing risks
11	The Health of a Paramedic	Advice column	alcohol, checkup, core strengthening, exercise, fatigue, fitness, lifting technique, mental, nutrition, overweight, physical, resistance training, smoking, immunization	Giving advice
12	Managing Stress	Brochure	anxiety, burnout, counseling, critical incident stress, distress, family support, follow-up, overwhelmed, peer support, recovery, stress, time off, warning sign	Expressing empathy
13	Dealing with Death	Article	acknowledge, comfort, death, dying, empathetic, failure, grieve, guilt, honest, pass away, privacy, religious belief, respect, tone of voice	Getting someone's attention
14	Ethics	Handbook chapter	confidentiality, consent, DNR, ethical, futile, implied, in one's best interest, informed, lawsuit, legal, moral, obligation, resuscitate, right	Reviewing events
15	Certification and Careers	Cover letter	ALS, associate's degree, background check, BLS, certification, dispatcher, drug screening, EMT, licensure, on-the-job, paramedic, physical, physician, reciprocity, specialist, volunteer	Making an introduction

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# 1 The Role of a Paramedic

## Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 What is the role of a paramedic?
- 2 How do first responders and hospital staff work together?



**PRESS RELEASE:**



Spencer County Health is expanding the department of **paramedicine**. This will include a larger team of **first responders**. We believe this is an essential improvement for our county.

Our goal is to raise our level of **pre-hospital** care. Currently, our **EMS** and **hospitals** have poorly **coordinated** procedures. And that's not good for **patients**. Of course, our ambulance operators **transport** patients to the hospital. However, many do not have the training to give expert **treatment**. Better education will improve the quality of **health care** throughout the county. Additionally, it will reduce the strain on local **ERs**.

**The expansion program will begin later this month.**

## Reading

2 Read the press release. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the passage?  
A changes in an EMS department  
B new laws that affect ambulance operators  
C the construction of a new hospital  
D a training program for ER workers
- 2 According to the passage, what is NOT a current problem with the county's health care?  
A The team of first responders is too small.  
B There is no department of paramedicine.  
C The hospitals and EMS teams are poorly coordinated.  
D Local emergency rooms are under strain.
- 3 How will the program improve health care in the county?  
A It will lower the cost of health care for patients.  
B It will increase the number of hospitals.  
C It will offer better training for first responders.  
D It will provide new equipment for local ERs.

## Vocabulary

3 Match the words or phrases (1-5) with the definitions (A-E).

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 __ ER          | 4 __ paramedicine    |
| 2 __ transport   | 5 __ first responder |
| 3 __ health care |                      |
- A someone who is called to assist immediately at emergency situations  
B the overall system of treating illnesses and injuries  
C a place within a hospital that handles urgent health care situations  
D to move something from one location to another  
E a branch of medicine that is practiced by people who are not physicians

**4** Read the sentence pairs. Choose which word best fits each blank.

**1** coordinated / pre-hospital

- A \_\_\_\_\_ care often occurs in an ambulance.  
 B The new training program is the \_\_\_\_\_ effort of two hospitals.

**2** patient / hospital

- A An ambulance transported the \_\_\_\_\_ to the clinic.  
 B The woman arrived at the \_\_\_\_\_ to visit her physician.

**3** treatments / EMS

- A At the hospital, the doctor prescribed some new \_\_\_\_\_ for the patient.  
 B After the accident, someone called \_\_\_\_\_ to the scene.

**5** Listen and read the press release again. What is the goal of the expansion program?

**Speaking**

**8** With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

**USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:**

- Tell me about ...*  
*I started working in ...*  
*I know how to ...*

**Student A:** You are an interviewer. Talk to Student B about:

- his or her work experience
- his or her responsibilities at a previous job
- the nature of the job

**Student B:** You are an applicant. Talk to Student A about your work experience.

**Listening**

**6** Listen to a conversation between an interviewer and an applicant. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

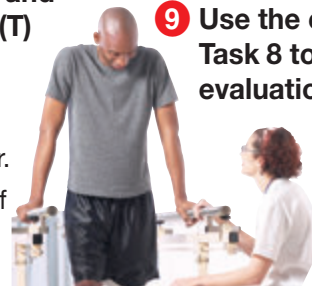
- 1 \_\_\_ The woman lacks experience in paramedicine.  
 2 \_\_\_ In the woman's previous job, she was a first responder.  
 3 \_\_\_ The man's EMS department handles a large number of calls.

**7** Listen again and complete the conversation.

**Interviewer:** It's good to meet you, Ms. Wilson. So, tell me about your work experience.  
**Applicant:** I started working in **1** \_\_\_\_\_ four years ago.  
**Interviewer:** That was with Flagton General **2** \_\_\_\_\_, right?  
**Applicant:** Yes. I was on the **3** \_\_\_\_\_ team there.  
**Interviewer:** So you **4** \_\_\_\_\_ to the ER.  
**Applicant:** That's right. As a result, I know how to provide **5** \_\_\_\_\_ in stressful situations.  
**Interviewer:** Well, that's certainly an important skill. Our **6** \_\_\_\_\_ is small, but we handle a lot of calls.  
**Applicant:** That's fine. I'm eager to join the team!

**Writing**

**9** Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the applicant evaluation form.



**Applicant Evaluation Form**

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Opening:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you hire the applicant?**  
**Y / N**

**Why or why not?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Glossary

- ABC** [ABBREV-U10] **ABC** is an abbreviation that stands for “Airway, Breathing, and Circulation,” and refers to the factors that someone should examine when dealing with an unresponsive patient.
- abdomen** [N-COUNT-U2] The **abdomen** is the part of the body below the chest, where most of a person’s gastrointestinal organs are located.
- accident** [N-COUNT-U15] An **accident** is an event in which something unexpected and unwanted occurs, such as a vehicle collision, and may have minor or severe consequences.
- ankle** [N-COUNT-U3] An **ankle** is a joint between the shin and the foot, which allows the foot to twist and bend in relation to the leg.
- anus** [N-COUNT-U9] The **anus** is an opening in the lower torso where the body expels solid waste.
- appendix** [N-COUNT-U9] The **appendix** is an organ in the gastrointestinal system that has an uncertain purpose, but may be related to the regulation of bacteria in the intestines. The appendix is not necessary for healthy bodily functioning, and is often surgically removed when it becomes inflamed.
- arm** [N-COUNT-U2] An **arm** is a long, narrow part of the body that extends from the upper side of the torso, and connects to a hand at the other end.
- artery** [N-COUNT-U7] An **artery** is a blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to other parts of the body.
- assault** [N-COUNT-U15] An **assault** is the act of intentionally causing physical harm to another person.
- back** [N-COUNT-U2] The **back** is the part of the body below the neck on the opposite side of the torso from the chest and abdomen.
- bandage** [N-COUNT-U14] A **bandage** is a piece of material that is secured over a wound to protect it, keep it clean, and possibly stop it from bleeding.
- bladder** [N-COUNT-U9] The **bladder** is an organ in the gastrointestinal system that receives urine from the kidneys and stores it until the body expels it.
- blood** [N-UNCOUNT-U7] **Blood** is a fluid that travels throughout the body to distribute nutrients and oxygen.
- blood pressure** [N-UNCOUNT-U10] **Blood pressure** (BP) is a measure of the strength of blood flow as it circulates, and is measured by the amount of pressure that the blood places on the arterial walls.
- blood pressure cuff** [N-COUNT-U13] A **blood pressure cuff** is a device that is used to measure the strength of blood flow as it circulates.
- blood type** [N-COUNT-U8] A **blood type** is a way to classify different people’s blood based on the presence of certain substances in the blood.
- blood vessel** [N-COUNT-U7] A **blood vessel** is a part of the cardiovascular system that serves as a pathway for blood throughout the body, and may be an artery, a vein, or a capillary.
- board** [N-COUNT-U14] A **board** is a strong, stiff piece of material that is used to stabilize a person’s spine during transport.
- bone** [N-COUNT-U4] A **bone** is a hard, rigid substance that helps the body maintain its shape and structure.
- BPM** [ABBREV-U10] **BPM** (beats per minute) are the number of times in one minute that the heart expands and contracts, and is measured by feeling someone’s pulse.
- breathe** [V-I-U10] To **breathe** is to inhale, drawing oxygen into the lungs, and then exhale, releasing carbon dioxide.
- bronchi** [N-PLURAL-U6] The **bronchi** are small tubes that carry air between the lower part of the trachea and the lungs.
- buttocks** [N-PLURAL-U3] The **buttocks** are the parts of the body between the back and the legs, which make contact with a chair or other surface when a person sits.
- calf** [N-COUNT-U3] A **calf** is the soft, fleshy part of the bottom of a leg, between the knee and ankle.

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# Paramedics

**Career Paths: Paramedics** is a new educational resource for emergency medical services professionals who want to improve their English communication in a work environment. Incorporating career-specific vocabulary and contexts, each unit offers step-by-step instruction that immerses students in the four key language components: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. **Career Paths: Paramedics** addresses topics including ambulance operations, basic life support techniques, common emergencies, types of trauma, and major incident response.

The series is organized into three levels of difficulty and offers a minimum of 400 vocabulary terms and phrases. Every unit includes a test of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills, and leads students through written and oral production.

**Included Features:**

- A variety of realistic reading passages
- Career-specific dialogues
- 45 reading and listening comprehension checks
- Over 400 vocabulary terms and phrases
- Guided speaking and writing exercises
- Complete glossary of terms and phrases

The **Teacher's Guide** contains detailed lesson plans, a full answer key and audio scripts.

The **audio CDs** contain all recorded material.



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