

Who wants to be a \$100 GRAND winner? answer key



Questions

1. Which of these is NOT a way to be poisoned?

- A Through the skin or dermally
- B Breathing it or inhaling something
- C Swallowing something or ingesting it
- D Through the bones and joints**

There are 4 ways to be poisoned: by swallowing something, inhaling something, getting something on your skin or in your eyes.

2. Which statement is FALSE?

- A A poison can hurt you if you swallow it or get it on your skin.
- B Poisons always smell badly and taste badly.**
- C Some poisons are invisible.
- D A poison can hurt you if you breathe it in or get it in your eyes.

Poisons do not always smell badly or taste badly. This is a good time to talk about “look alike” poisons. Chocolate Ex Lax tablets look just like a chocolate candy bar. Some children’s liquid medications are grape flavored and children like the taste. Some poisons are also pretty, for example: blue glass cleaner, windshield washer fluid, and even pink Pepto Bismol is pretty!

3. Which statement is FALSE?

- A Mr. Yuk is a scowling green face, used to make children aware of poisons and their poison center phone number.
- B Poisons exist everywhere and can be found inside and outside the home.
- C All poisons contain a warning or danger label.**
- D The Wisconsin Poison Center is the place to call when you think someone has swallowed or inhaled something that could be harmful.

All poisons do not contain a warning. Think of poisonous gases like carbon monoxide and natural gas - they don’t come with labels!

4. Which of these products could be harmful?

- A Toothpaste
- B Baby powder
- C Cigarette butts
- D All of the above**

The fluoride in toothpaste is the “toxic” ingredient. Baby powder is a choking hazard and can be inhaled into the lungs. Cigarettes, cigarette butts and any tobacco are very toxic, causing initial stomach upset and vomiting, and can lead to low blood pressure, coma and seizures.

5. Which is NOT a possible poison?

A A pencil

- B Food that is not cooked thoroughly
- C Mouthwash
- D Car exhaust

A pencil is not poisonous. The “lead” is NOT lead but graphite. A pencil can be a choking hazard but is not poisonous. Obviously, undercooked food can cause food poisoning. Mouthwashes contain alcohol and frequently contain salicylates, which are the active ingredient in aspirin. Both of these ingredients are toxic. Car exhaust gives off carbon monoxide.

6. Poisons can have an effect on which of these body systems?

- A GI: stomach and intestines
- B Cardiac: heart rate, rhythm and blood pressure
- C Neurologic: behavior, thinking, alertness
- D All of the above**

Some poisons cause stomach upset or even burns to the stomach. Some poisons have an effect on a patient’s blood pressure and heart rate, and some cause abnormal heart rhythms, also called arrhythmias. Many poisons have an effect on a patient’s thinking, their alertness, and their ability to walk and talk clearly.

7. Poisons can have an effect on which of these body parts?

- A Skin
- B Eyes
- C Airway
- D All of the above**

Some poisons, like acids (drain cleaners, battery acid), can burn the skin. Some poisons, like pesticides, can absorb through the skin and cause toxic symptoms from this route. Many poisons can affect the airway. For example, some can directly irritate the mouth, throat and lungs (like fumes from mixing chemicals), and some poisons can cause a patient to breathe poorly or not at all.

8. You accidentally spray furniture polish in your eye. What should you do?

- A Do nothing and let it wear off.
- B Get in a warm shower and flush for 15 minutes.**
- C Briefly rinse your eye in cold water, under the faucet.
- D Go to the eye doctor right away.

The standard poison center treatment for anything in the eye is a 15-minute warm shower flush. If there is continuing pain or blurred vision after the shower, then a patient is referred for an eye exam. Most eye exposures clear up with the shower. An immediate eye exam is not necessary. Cold and hot water are both irritating to the eyes. And doing nothing allows the product to linger in the eye and cause further problems.

9. Medication safety includes all these statements, except one. Which statement is FALSE?

- A Take only as much medication as your doctor prescribes.
- B Never take someone else's medication.
- C Child-resistant caps always prevent children from getting into medicines.**
- D Medicines and candy often look alike.

Child-resistant caps help prevent children from opening the bottles, but the caps are not childproof! Only take as much medicine as prescribed or as written on the label. And never take anyone else's medication. As for candy and medicines looking alike – yes! Tums antacids look just like sweet tarts. Chocolate Ex-Lax looks like a candy bar. And Sudafed looks just like red M&M's.

10. Food safety and handling is an important topic. Which of these does NOT relate to food poisoning?

- A Refrigerating food properly
- B Thoroughly cooking meat
- C Using a fork in your left hand**
- D Good hand-washing

Proper refrigeration, thorough cooking and good hand-washing are extremely important in preventing food poisoning.

11. Preventing poisonings includes all of these, EXCEPT?

- A Keep products in their original containers.
- B Turn on a light when taking or giving medicine.
- C Read product labels and warnings.
- D Keep old prescription medicines, just in case you may need them in the future.**

The Wisconsin Poison Center recommends that products be kept in their original containers. This makes identifying the harmful ingredients very easy, if someone is exposed to the product. Often times, there will be a small amount of a product left in a bottle and people will put that amount in a soda bottle or other, unlabeled container. If a person gets into this product, we oftentimes have no idea what the product is! This is true for medications, as well. Keeping the box, or the original container, helps the poison center nurses identify the exact ingredients. A simple step, like turning on the lights when giving or taking medication, helps prevent accidents. (Story: a mom called the poison center after she had accidentally put her artificial nail glue in her baby's eyes, instead of eye drops. The bottles were the same size and shape, and her bathroom was dark when she grabbed the bottle). Always read label directions and warning. And always throw away old or expired medications.

12. You find your little brother with a soda bottle that your dad left on his tool bench. You see some of the contents spilled on your brother's shirt, but it doesn't look like soda. What should you do?

- A Call 911.
- B Call the Wisconsin Poison Center.**
- C Make him vomit.
- D Do nothing! It's a soda bottle.

Call the Wisconsin Poison Center. We are problem solvers, and can help you try and figure out what was in the bottle. As long as your brother is awake and breathing, there is no immediate need to call 911. Do NOT make him vomit. This is an "old" treatment for poisonings and is NO longer recommended. We no longer recommend giving Syrup of Ipecac (a medicine that causes someone to vomit). And, don't do nothing - this could be a serious problem, particularly because things found on a tool bench are generally not safe!

13. Which of these would NOT be a poison concern?

- A Grass**
- B Household plants
- C Berries off a bush
- D Mushrooms growing in your yard

Grass is not considered a poison unless it has a pesticide applied to it. Many household plants are poisonous and can cause stomach upset and mouth irritation. Also, many berries are poisonous, as well as mushrooms. They are fun to look at, but unless they come from the grocery store, don't eat them!

14. Which of these salts could be a possible poison?

- A Table salt
- B Rock or sidewalk salt
- C Water softener salt
- D All of the above**

All salts are potentially toxic. Some road salts contain 99 percent potassium and, in a child, even as few as 2 pellets could be toxic. Salts cause water retention in the body and can affect a person's blood pressure and heart function.

15. Pencils are made of?

- A Lead
- B Copper
- C Graphite**
- D Quartzite

Pencils are made of graphite, not lead, and are not toxic. They are a choking hazard.

16. Swallowed coins can cause all of the following, EXCEPT?

- A Coughing
- B Poisoning**
- C Breathing difficulty
- D Change in the patient's voice

Coins are not poisonous. However, they can become lodged in the throat/esophagus and cause a blockage. This can cause coughing, a change in their voice, and difficulty breathing and swallowing. There have been patients who swallowed a coin, which became lodged and "corroded" their esophagus, causing bleeding. The coin needed to be surgically removed and the bleeding corrected.

17. Which of these is considered a poison?

A Toothpaste

B Washable markers

C Crayons

D Ballpoint pen ink

Fluoride in toothpaste is toxic. Markers and crayons are not toxic. Ballpoint pen ink in the amount that is in a pen is not considered toxic.

18. Nausea, dizziness, headache and tiredness can be caused by all of these, EXCEPT?

A Flu

B Listening to music

C Food poisoning

D Carbon monoxide exposure

Flu, food poisoning and low-level carbon monoxide exposures have the same symptoms. Call the Wisconsin Poison Center nurses and they will try to help you find the cause of your symptoms.

19. If you come upon a poisoning situation, what do you do FIRST?

A Give ipecac syrup to induce vomiting.

B Check ABCs (airway, breathing, circulation).

C Call the Wisconsin Poison Center.

D Call 911.

Use this question to emphasize to students that in ANY situation, they should assess for breathing and circulation. If a person is not breathing, they need emergency help via 911. 911 can then call the poison center if it is related to a poisoning.

20. Which of these could poison someone?

A Children's multivitamins

B Mixture of bleach and ammonia

C Gasoline

D All of the above

Vitamins with iron and/or fluoride are considered toxic. Bleach and ammonia, when mixed (Never mix cleaning products!) create chloramine gas, which is extremely irritating to the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Gasoline, especially when siphoned, can be inhaled into the lungs and cause a chemical pneumonia.

21. You find your little sister with an open bottle of cold medicine and you've called the poison center. Which of these things is NOT important about the event?

- A The time of the exposure or event
- B The exact product name
- C The ZIP code where this happened**
- D Your little sister's weight and age

The time of the event is very important to the poison nurses. The earlier we can recommend treatment, the better for the patient. If the event was hours ago, it may change our recommendations to the caller. The exact product is immensely important. Bring the product container to the phone. Many times, manufacturers make new products or change ingredients in products before the information is provided to the poison center databases. If this involved a medication, we need to do a calculation for each ingredient and our calculation is based on the patient's weight. If the caller does not know the weight, knowing the age of the person can help a lot. We have charts available with "normal" weights for people and can base our calculation on the chart weight. And ZIP codes are not important to the event. The nurses will ask for the ZIP code because that is how we track our calls for funding purposes.

22. How can you help prevent poisonings?

- A Keep cleaning products and medicines up and away from children.
- B Do not mix chemicals.
- C Call the Wisconsin Poison Center for Mr. Yuk stickers and information.
- D All of the above**

23. What is the national number for the Poison Help line that rings at the Wisconsin Poison Center?

- A 1-877-777-7777
- B 911
- C 1-800-222-1212**
- D (764) 766-4357 (POISONHELP)

If you think someone has been poisoned, you can call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 to connect with your local poison center. This toll-free number is available from anywhere in the United States and many territories. Poison center staff are trained in toxicology and can help assess, triage, manage and monitor people who have been exposed to poison. You can also text POISON to (301) 597-7137.