

Use the Fish Shaped acronym to try and diagnose what is wrong in these situations. Try answering on pages 1 and 2 and then check your answers on page 3 and 4. Separately consider and discuss with a partner the treatment:

Situation

Answer Here Likely Cause (FISHSHAPED)

- 1 A 4-year-old with a very high fever begins to twitch and arch their back.
- 2 A person is found in a garage with a car engine running; they have cherry-red lips.
- 3 A marathon runner collapses; they are pale, cold, clammy, and have a rapid, weak pulse.
- 4 An elderly man suddenly cannot move his left arm and is slurring his words.
- 5 A teenager standing in a hot, crowded room suddenly slumps to the floor and wakes up seconds later.
- 6 A woman is clutching her chest, complaining of a "crushing" pain radiating down her left arm.
- 7 A person is found at the bottom of a ladder with a "boggy" swelling on their scalp and unequal pupils.
- 8 A diner at a restaurant stops breathing and turns blue after coughing violently.
- 9 A person is found rhythmic shaking on the floor with blue-tinged lips and a bitten tongue.
- 10 A casualty is found confused and trembling; they have a "Medical Alert" necklace and fruity-smelling breath.
- 11 Someone is found slumped over a table with several empty prescription pill bottles nearby.
- 12 After a car accident, a casualty is pale and has a very distended, hard, and painful abdomen.
- 13 A worker in a trench is buried by a soil collapse and is found not breathing.
- 14 A person suddenly feels "funny," sees flashing lights, and then falls into a generalized seizure.
- 15 A woman suddenly loses her balance, has a drooping face, and can't keep her right arm raised.
- 16 A child is found in a swimming pool, face down and unresponsive.
- 17 A person collapses after an intense argument; they are sweating profusely and feel nauseated.
- 18 A man is found unconscious in a park; his pupils are "pinpoints" and there is drug paraphernalia nearby.

- 19 Someone is hit by a fast-moving ball in the temple; they seem fine for 10 minutes, then become unconscious.
- 20 A person is found confused and aggressive after a long hike without eating.
- 21 A construction worker is found unconscious in an unventilated trench where a petrol pump is running.
- 22 A person falls from a height, is conscious for a moment, then becomes "combative" and loses consciousness.
- 23 A diner at a wedding suddenly can't speak, is clutching their throat, and their face is turning purple.
- 24 A teenager is found slumped in a chair at a party; they are breathing very slowly and smell of alcohol.
- 25 A known heart patient complains of severe indigestion that won't go away with antacids, then collapses.
- 26 A casualty has a major bleed from a leg wound; they become thirsty, restless, and then drift into unconsciousness.
- 27 A person is found in a "post-ictal" state (very sleepy and confused) with wet trousers and a sore tongue.
- 28 A person on a restricted diet for a medical study becomes shaky, sweaty, and eventually unresponsive.
- 29 A gardener is stung by multiple wasps; they develop a rash, wheezing, and then collapse.
- 30 A person has been sunbathing for far too long in the midday sun, they are not burnt, but are weak, thirsty and feeling dizzy.
- 31 A Victorian ghost-tour actor stays in their "death pose" too long in a hot, unventilated room and suddenly face-plants into the floor.
- 32 A competitive eater attempting to break the world record for "Most Dry Crackers Eaten in a Minute" suddenly stops mid-chew and starts pointing frantically at their throat.
- 33 A "Health Guru" is found wandering the park in a daze, trying to hug a tree. They've been on a "no-carb, water-only" fast for three days and are cold and shaky.
- 34 A DIY enthusiast is found at the bottom of the stairs wearing a suit of armor they built themselves. They have a massive dent in the helmet and can't remember their own name.
- 35 A man is found slumped over his "Extreme Hot Wing Challenge" platter. He is incredibly pale, sweating like he's in a sauna, and clutching his chest, claiming the wings "literally broke his heart."

Answers on pages 3 and 4.

Answers

- 1 A 4-year-old with a very high fever begins to twitch and arch their back. Imbalance of Heat
- 2 A person is found in a garage with a car engine running; they have cherry-red lips. Poisoning (CO)
- 3 A marathon runner collapses; they are pale, cold, clammy, rapid shallow breathing and have a rapid, weak pulse. Shock,(Imbalance of Heat and dehydration)
- 4 An elderly man suddenly cannot move his left arm and is slurring his words. Stroke
- 5 A teenager standing in a hot, crowded room suddenly slumps to the floor and wakes up seconds later. Fainting
- 6 A woman is clutching her chest, complaining of a "crushing" pain radiating down her left arm. Heart Attack
- 7 A person is found at the bottom of a ladder with a "boggy" swelling on their scalp and unequal pupils. Head Injury
- 8 A diner at a restaurant stops breathing and turns blue after coughing violently. Asphyxia (Choking)
- 9 A person is found rhythmic shaking on the floor with blue-tinged lips and a bitten tongue. Epilepsy
- 10 A casualty is found confused and trembling; they have a "Medical Alert" necklace and fruity-smelling breath. Diabetes (Hyperglycaemia)
- 11 Someone is found slumped over a table with several empty prescription pill bottles nearby. Poisoning
- 12 After a car accident, a casualty is pale and has a very distended, hard, and painful abdomen. Shock (Internal Bleeding)
- 13 A worker in a trench is buried by a soil collapse and is found not breathing. Asphyxia (Crush/Suffocation)
- 14 A person suddenly feels "funny," sees flashing lights, and then falls into a generalized seizure. Epilepsy
- 15 A woman suddenly loses her balance, has a drooping face, and can't keep her right arm raised. Stroke
- 16 A child is found in a swimming pool, face down and unresponsive. Asphyxia (Drowning)
- 17 A person collapses after an intense argument; they are sweating profusely and feel nauseated. Heart Attack
- 18 A man is found unconscious in a park; his pupils are "pinpoints" and there is drug paraphernalia nearby. Poisoning (Overdose)
- 19 Someone is hit by a fast-moving ball in the temple; they seem fine for 10 minutes, then become unconscious. Head Injury
- 20 A person is found confused and aggressive after a long hike without eating. Diabetes (Hypoglycaemia)
- 21 A construction worker is found unconscious in an unventilated basement where a petrol pump is running. Poisoning (Fumes)

- 22 A person falls from a height, is conscious for a moment, then becomes "combative" and loses consciousness. **Head Injury**
- 23 A diner at a wedding suddenly can't speak, is clutching their throat, and their face is turning purple. **Asphyxia (Choking)**
- 24 A teenager is found slumped in a chair at a party; they are breathing very slowly and smell of alcohol. **Poisoning (Alcohol)**
- 25 A known heart patient complains of severe indigestion that won't go away with antacids, then collapses. **Heart Attack**
- 26 A casualty has a major bleed from a leg wound; they become thirsty, restless, and then drift into unconsciousness. **Shock (Hypovolaemic)**
- 27 A person is found in a "post-ictal" state (very sleepy and confused) with wet trousers and a sore tongue. **Epilepsy**
- 28 A person on a restricted diet for a medical study becomes shaky, sweaty, and eventually unresponsive. **Diabetes**
- 29 A gardener is stung by multiple wasps; they develop a rash, wheezing, and then collapse. **Asphyxia (Anaphylaxis)**
- 30 A person has been sunbathing for far too long in the midday sun, they are not burnt, but are weak, thirsty and feeling dizzy. **Imbalance of Heat**
- 31 A Victorian ghost-tour actor stays in their "death pose" too long in a hot, unventilated room and suddenly face-plants into the floor. **Fainting**
- 32 A competitive eater attempting to break the world record for "Most Dry Crackers Eaten in a Minute" suddenly stops mid-chew and starts pointing frantically at their throat. **Asphyxia (Choking)**
- 33 A "Health Guru" is found wandering the park in a daze, trying to hug a tree. They've been on a "no-carb, water-only" fast for three days and are cold and shaky. **Diabetes (Hypoglycaemia)**
- 34 A DIY enthusiast is found at the bottom of the stairs wearing a suit of armour they built themselves. They have a massive dent in the helmet and can't remember their own name. **Head Injury**
- 35 A man is found slumped over his "Extreme Hot Wing Challenge" platter. He is incredibly pale, sweating like he's in a sauna, and clutching his chest, claiming the wings "literally broke his heart." **Heart Attack**

Revision Strategy: The "Red Herring"

When you see an amusing or dramatic scenario, don't let the "comedy" distract you from the **Primary Survey**.

- **Scenario 32:** Even though it's funny he's eating crackers, your priority is the **Airway**.
- **Scenario 34:** The suit of armor makes **Exposure (E)** and **Examine (DOTS)** very difficult. You'd need to figure out how to get that helmet off safely without moving the neck! (Similar to a motorcyclist.)