

## Grammar

### COMMUNICATING THE DIAGNOSIS OF SEVERE ILLNESS (BAD NEWS)

#### I. Exchanges of information between doctors and their patients

Function	Examples
1a. <i>Asking about one's health condition</i>	<b>Could you tell me.....?</b> <b>Could you please tell me if.....</b>
1b. <i>Answering questions about one's health condition:</i>	<b>Certainly. I'm still having that splitting headache.</b> <b>I'm not sure but I'll have my tests done. (</b>
2a. Asking information about a mental act	<b>Have you changed your mind about.....?</b> <b>Do you remember/ Do you remember when.....?</b>
2b. <i>Answering questions about a mental act</i>	<b>Yes, I've changed my mind.</b> <b>No, I forgot about it.</b>
3. Checking information	<b>Is she your wife ?</b>
4. <i>Stating a fact</i>	<b>I'd like to tell you that ...../to make an announcement about.....</b>
5a. <i>Asking for explanations</i>	<b>Could you tell me why.....?</b>
5b. <i>Giving explanations</i>	<b>Because it proved o be effective.</b>
6. <i>Considering a fact as true</i>	<b>It's true (that new investigations must be done. / That's it!</b> <b>It's not true...../ It's not like this.</b>
7. <i>Considering a fact as certain to happen</i>	<b>It is certain that the operation will start at 9.</b>
8. <i>Considering a fact as apparent</i>	<b>I have the feeling that .....</b>
9. <i>Considering a fact as probable to happen</i>	<b>There are few chances that.....</b>
10. <i>Considering a fact as possible/impossible to happen</i>	<b>It's possible to envisage the length of the treatment.</b> <b>It can/ It can't.....</b>
11. <i>Considering a fact as necessary/unecessary</i>	<b>It is necessary .....</b> <b>It isn't necessary .....</b>

## II. Examples

**Could you tell me if** you have a headache?

**Tell me if** you suffer from a disease.

I still have a splitting headache.

**I'm not sure but** I'll have to have my tests done.

**Have you** changed your mind about what therapy to follow?

**Do you remember** when you took your medicine?

**I'm afraid to tell you that** you're suffering from a serious disease.

**Could you tell me why** I'll have to go through this therapy?

**I feel that** you have temperature.

**There are few chances that** you'll be transferred to another hospital.

**It's possible to** envisage the length of the treatment.

**We can't** resort to this therapy.

**It's necessary for** you to do a radiography.