

Ni Wayan Novi Suryati, S.Pd., M.Pd.

# ENGLISH FOR NURSING IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

*A Practical Guide For Nursing Students*



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**ENGLISH FOR NURSING IN CLINICAL PRACTICE:  
A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NURSING STUDENTS**

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# PREFACE

Praise be to God Almighty for His blessings and grace, which have enabled the completion of this book entitled *English for Nursing in Clinical Practice: A Practical Guide for Nursing Students*. This book has been prepared as a practical learning resource to support nursing students in developing English communication skills that are closely connected to clinical practice and professional healthcare environments.

In the modern healthcare world, English plays a very important role in communication, education, research, and professional collaboration. Nurses are expected not only to possess clinical competence, but also to communicate effectively with patients, families, doctors, and other healthcare professionals. The increasing globalization of healthcare services, the rapid development of medical science, and the widespread use of international medical references have made English proficiency an essential skill for nursing students and healthcare practitioners.

This book was developed with the understanding that nursing students require English materials that are practical, contextual, and directly related to real clinical situations. Therefore, the contents of this book focus on communication skills commonly used in nursing practice, including patient interaction, medical terminology, history

taking, giving instructions, describing symptoms, handling emergencies, interprofessional communication, documentation, ethical communication, and integrated clinical communication practice.

The materials in this book are organized systematically to help students gradually improve both language competence and professional communication abilities. Each chapter is divided into several subtopics that discuss important concepts in a clear and accessible manner. The discussions are presented through explanatory paragraphs, practical examples, communication expressions, and contextual learning activities designed to strengthen students' understanding of English in healthcare settings.

In addition, this book emphasizes the importance of professionalism, empathy, cultural awareness, and ethical communication in nursing practice. Effective communication in healthcare is not limited to language accuracy alone, but also involves respect, active listening, compassion, and the ability to build trust with patients and healthcare teams. For this reason, the book integrates linguistic competence with the interpersonal skills required in nursing services.

This book is intended to serve as a practical guide for nursing students, nursing educators, and healthcare learners who wish to improve their English communication skills for clinical purposes. It is hoped that the book will

help readers become more confident in using English during academic activities, clinical training, and professional healthcare interactions.

Finally, it is hoped that *English for Nursing in Clinical Practice: A Practical Guide for Nursing Students* will contribute positively to the improvement of nursing education and support the development of competent, professional, and communicative healthcare practitioners who are prepared to face the challenges of global healthcare services.

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# CHAPTER 1:

## INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH FOR NURSING

### A. DEFINITION OF ENGLISH FOR NURSING

#### 1. Understanding English for Nursing

English for Nursing is a specialized form of English designed to support communication in nursing and healthcare environments. This type of English focuses on language skills that are directly related to nursing activities, including communicating with patients, understanding medical terminology, documenting patient conditions, and interacting with healthcare professionals. Unlike general English, English for Nursing emphasizes practical communication that can be applied in clinical situations and professional healthcare services (Bosher, 2025).

The development of English for Nursing is closely related to the increasing demand for effective communication in global healthcare systems. Nurses are expected to communicate clearly and professionally because communication is an important component of patient care.

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# CHAPTER 2:

## BASIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN HEALTHCARE

### A. IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION IN HEALTHCARE

#### 1. Understanding Communication in Healthcare

Communication is one of the most important components in healthcare services. In nursing practice, communication is used to exchange information, provide care instructions, understand patient needs, and establish professional relationships. Effective communication allows healthcare professionals to deliver accurate information and reduce misunderstandings during patient care activities.

In healthcare environments, communication does not only involve spoken language but also includes listening skills, body language, facial expressions, and emotional understanding. Nurses are expected to communicate clearly, respectfully, and empathetically because patients often experience anxiety, pain, or emotional stress during treatment. Good communication can improve patient

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# CHAPTER 3:

## NURSING TERMINOLOGY AND MEDICAL VOCABULARY

### A. INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

#### 1. Understanding Medical Terminology

Medical terminology is a specialized language used in healthcare to describe the human body, diseases, treatments, procedures, and medical conditions. In nursing practice, medical terminology is essential because nurses regularly communicate with doctors, patients, and other healthcare professionals using technical healthcare language. Understanding medical terminology helps nursing students interpret medical information accurately and communicate professionally in clinical environments.

Medical terminology is considered an important foundation in nursing education because it supports both academic learning and clinical practice. Nursing students are expected to understand medical terms found in textbooks, nursing documentation, laboratory reports, and healthcare instructions. Without sufficient knowledge of

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# CHAPTER 4:

## COMMUNICATING WITH PATIENTS

### A. PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE PATIENT COMMUNICATION

#### 1. Understanding Patient Communication

Communication with patients is an essential aspect of nursing practice. Nurses interact directly with patients in various healthcare situations, including assessment, treatment, education, and emotional support. Effective patient communication helps nurses understand patient needs, provide accurate information, and establish therapeutic relationships. Good communication also contributes to patient safety, satisfaction, and quality healthcare services.

Patient communication involves both verbal and nonverbal interaction. Nurses use spoken language, facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, and tone of voice to communicate with patients. Effective communication requires nurses to speak clearly, listen carefully, and

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# CHAPTER 5:

## TAKING PATIENT HISTORY

### A. UNDERSTANDING PATIENT HISTORY (ANAMNESIS)

#### 1. Definition of Patient History Taking

Patient history taking, also known as anamnesis, is the process of collecting information about a patient's health condition through communication and interviews. This process is an essential component of nursing and medical assessment because it helps healthcare professionals understand the patient's symptoms, medical background, and healthcare needs. Through patient history taking, nurses can gather important information needed for diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient care.

Patient history taking involves both communication skills and clinical reasoning. Nurses must ask appropriate questions, listen carefully to patient responses, and interpret information accurately. Effective communication during anamnesis helps establish trust and encourages patients to provide honest and complete information. According to

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# CHAPTER 6:

## GIVING INSTRUCTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

### A. IMPORTANCE OF CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS

#### 1. Understanding Instructional Communication in Healthcare

Instructional communication is an important part of nursing practice because nurses frequently provide guidance, explanations, and directions to patients and their families. In healthcare settings, instructions are used to explain medications, treatment procedures, dietary recommendations, physical activities, and follow-up care. Clear communication helps patients understand what they need to do and reduces the possibility of misunderstandings during treatment.

Nurses must provide instructions in language that patients can easily understand. Patients may have different educational backgrounds, emotional conditions, and levels of health literacy. Therefore, nurses should avoid unnecessary medical jargon and use simple, direct, and

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# CHAPTER 7:

## DESCRIBING SYMPTOMS AND CONDITIONS

### A. COMMON SYMPTOMS VOCABULARY

#### 1. Understanding Symptoms in Healthcare

Symptoms are physical or emotional experiences reported by patients that may indicate illness or health problems. In nursing practice, understanding symptoms is essential because symptoms provide important information for patient assessment, diagnosis, and treatment planning. Nurses must be able to recognize, understand, and describe symptoms accurately during communication with patients and healthcare teams.

Symptoms may vary depending on the patient's condition and individual experiences. Some symptoms are physical, such as pain, fever, nausea, or coughing, while others may involve emotional or psychological conditions such as anxiety, fatigue, or stress. According to Eriksen and Risør (2014), symptoms are not only biological experiences

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# CHAPTER 8:

## COMMUNICATION IN CLINICAL PROCEDURES

### A. LANGUAGE FOR VITAL SIGNS ASSESSMENT

#### 1. Understanding Vital Signs Assessment

Vital signs assessment is one of the most important clinical activities in nursing practice. Vital signs provide information about a patient's physical condition and help healthcare professionals monitor health status and detect medical problems. Common vital signs include body temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation.

During vital signs assessment, nurses must communicate clearly and professionally with patients. Communication is important because patients need to understand what procedures are being performed and why they are necessary. Clear explanations help reduce patient anxiety and encourage cooperation during assessments.

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# CHAPTER 9:

## HANDLING EMERGENCIES

### A. CHARACTERISTICS OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

#### 1. Understanding Emergency Situations

Emergency situations are conditions that require immediate medical attention to prevent serious harm, disability, or death. In healthcare settings, emergencies may involve accidents, severe illnesses, cardiac arrest, breathing difficulties, trauma, bleeding, or sudden deterioration of patient conditions. Nurses must respond quickly and effectively during these situations to ensure patient safety and survival.

Emergency situations are often characterized by urgency, uncertainty, and high emotional pressure. Healthcare professionals are required to make rapid decisions while managing patient care efficiently. According to Cvetković (2013), emergency situations involve unexpected events that require immediate response and coordinated action.

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# CHAPTER 10:

## INTERPROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

### A. COMMUNICATION AMONG HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

#### 1. Understanding Interprofessional Communication

Interprofessional communication refers to communication that occurs among healthcare professionals from different disciplines, such as nurses, doctors, pharmacists, therapists, and laboratory staff. In healthcare settings, effective communication is essential because patient care often involves collaboration among multiple professionals working together.

Nurses communicate regularly with healthcare teams to share patient information, discuss treatment plans, and coordinate clinical activities. Effective communication supports teamwork, reduces misunderstandings, and improves healthcare quality. According to Foronda et al. (2016), interprofessional communication is a fundamental

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# CHAPTER 11:

## CULTURAL AWARENESS IN HEALTHCARE COMMUNICATION

### A. CONCEPT OF CULTURAL AWARENESS IN HEALTHCARE

#### 1. Understanding Cultural Awareness

Cultural awareness refers to the ability to recognize, understand, and respect cultural differences among individuals and groups. In healthcare settings, cultural awareness is important because patients come from diverse cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds. Nurses must therefore communicate in ways that respect patient beliefs, values, and traditions.

Cultural awareness helps healthcare professionals provide patient-centered care that is respectful and inclusive. Patients may have different perspectives regarding illness, treatment, pain, family roles, and healthcare decisions. According to Brooks et al. (2019), culturally sensitive communication involves understanding

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# CHAPTER 12:

## DOCUMENTATION AND NURSING REPORTS

### A. IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTATION IN NURSING

#### 1. Understanding Nursing Documentation

Nursing documentation refers to the process of recording patient information, nursing care, treatments, observations, and clinical responses in healthcare records. Documentation is an essential responsibility in nursing practice because it provides accurate information about patient conditions and healthcare services.

Nursing documentation supports communication among healthcare professionals and helps ensure continuity of patient care. Through proper documentation, nurses and other healthcare providers can monitor patient progress, evaluate treatment effectiveness, and coordinate healthcare interventions efficiently.

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# CHAPTER 13:

## ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

### A. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES IN NURSING COMMUNICATION

#### 1. Understanding Ethics in Nursing Communication

Ethics in nursing communication refers to moral principles and professional values that guide nurses in interacting with patients, families, and healthcare professionals. Ethical communication is essential because nurses regularly handle sensitive information, emotional situations, and important healthcare decisions.

Ethical nursing communication involves honesty, respect, responsibility, empathy, and professionalism. Nurses should communicate truthfully while maintaining compassion and sensitivity toward patient needs and feelings.

According to Cheney et al. (2009), ethics and communication are closely connected because professional interactions influence trust, relationships, and decision-

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# CHAPTER 14:

## INTEGRATED CLINICAL COMMUNICATION PRACTICE

### A. CASE-BASED LEARNING IN NURSING ENGLISH

#### 1. Understanding Case-Based Learning

Case-based learning is an educational approach that uses realistic clinical situations to help students apply theoretical knowledge in practical contexts. In nursing English learning, case-based activities allow students to practice communication skills while discussing patient conditions, treatments, and healthcare problems.

Through case studies, nursing students learn how to communicate professionally in situations similar to real healthcare environments. Students analyze patient information, discuss healthcare decisions, and practice appropriate communication strategies during clinical scenarios.

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The book *English For Nursing In Clinical Practice: A Practical Guide For Nursing Students* is a comprehensive resource designed to help nursing students develop English language skills that are directly applicable to clinical settings. It addresses the growing need for effective communication in healthcare, where English proficiency plays a crucial role in delivering safe, accurate, and patient-centered care.

The opening chapters introduce the concept of English for Nursing as part of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), highlighting its importance in professional nursing practice. The book then builds a strong foundation in basic communication skills, including greeting patients, introducing oneself, asking and answering simple questions, and using polite expressions in medical contexts. It also equips students with essential nursing terminology and medical vocabulary, which are fundamental for understanding and engaging in clinical communication.

The core sections of the book focus on practical communication in real clinical situations. These include interacting with patients, taking patient history, giving clear instructions, describing symptoms and conditions, and communicating during clinical procedures. In addition, the book covers communication in emergency situations, interprofessional collaboration, and the importance of cultural awareness when dealing with patients from diverse backgrounds. Each chapter is supported by sample dialogues, guided exercises, and simulation activities to enhance students' practical skills.

In the final chapters, the book emphasizes professional aspects of nursing communication, such as documentation, report writing, ethical communication, and patient confidentiality. It concludes with integrated clinical communication practices through case-based learning, role plays, and reflective activities. Overall, this book serves as a practical and structured guide to prepare nursing students to communicate confidently, effectively, and professionally in clinical environments.

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