

## Doctor who identified SARS becomes its victim

Level 2 | **Intermediate**

### 1 Pre-reading | Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these words

virus	infectious	isolated	spread
rapidly	update	admit	flu

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a report containing all the latest information or news.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is short for 'influenza'.
3. An \_\_\_\_\_ disease is one that can be passed from one person to another.
4. People with highly infectious diseases have to be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. SARS is a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Infectious diseases often \_\_\_\_\_ very quickly.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is another word for 'quickly'.
8. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you agree that it is true.

### 2 True or False

1. SARS is a bacterial infection.
2. SARS affects the vital organs of the body, such as the heart and brain.
3. SARS first appeared in China.
4. Hong Kong schools closed for 10 days.
5. SARS spreads very rapidly.

Now look in the text and check your answers.

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SARS is a deadly virus, similar to flu. It has now killed hundreds of people worldwide and infected thousands. Recently, Dr Carlo Urbani, the doctor who first identified the disease, died from it himself. Dr Urbani, who worked for the World Health Organisation in Vietnam, identified the first case of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in an American businessman who was admitted to hospital in Hanoi.

Unfortunately, the virus, which is fast-moving and creates severe breathing difficulties, also infected the doctor. His colleague Pascale Brudon said: "Carlo was the one who very quickly saw that this was something strange. When people became very worried in the hospital, he was there every day, collecting samples, talking to

the staff and strengthening infection control procedures."

The World Health Organisation issued a statement praising Dr Urbani, an expert in infectious diseases. "Because of his work with SARS, we were able to identify and isolate many new cases before they infected hospital staff," the statement read. But although the virus has been identified, it is still spreading rapidly across East Asia. So far the disease has infected thousands of people in 15 countries, and has killed hundreds. Most of the cases are in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Toronto in Canada and Vietnam.

Hong Kong closed schools for a million students for 10 days, but some doctors say they should be closed for a month. Normal daily life has changed completely for the people of Hong Kong. They avoid going to restaurants or theatres and taking taxis, and they wear face masks and even chemical protection suits on the streets. In the first weeks of the spread of the infection more than 530 cases were treated in Hong Kong. At least 60 of these cases came from a single building in Kowloon

Bay, raising questions about the way the virus spreads.

The Chinese government has now agreed to publish daily updates on the spread of the disease, but critics in Hong Kong say the Chinese decision came two months too late to save lives. They say the Chinese government did not publish important information about the disease and the speed with which it spread in hospitals with infected patients.

When the virus reached Hong Kong, it infected dozens of hospital workers. It was first brought to Hong Kong in February by a doctor from Guangdong province in China. Chinese officials have now admitted that there are many more cases than they first said.

*The Guardian Weekly*

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### 3 Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer

1. Dr Carlo Urbani died from...
  - a. a hospital infection
  - b. breathing difficulties
  - c. SARS
2. Dr Urbani's work...
  - a. helped the World Health Organisation
  - b. helped to save the lives of hospital staff
  - c. prevented SARS from spreading rapidly across East Asia
3. The large number of cases in a single building in Hong Kong...
  - a. killed 59 people
  - b. raised questions about the way the virus spreads
  - c. closed schools in Hong Kong
4. Hong Kong doctors say...
  - a. that schools should be closed for a longer period of time
  - b. that schools should be closed for a shorter period of time
  - c. that schools should not be closed at all
5. The SARS virus originated in ...
  - a. Hong Kong
  - b. Guangdong province in China
  - c. Vietnam

### 4 Vocabulary Work - Word Building

Complete the tables

Adjective	Noun	Verb
1. strong	_____	_____
2. long	_____	_____
3. deep	_____	_____
4. weak	_____	_____
5. high	_____	_____

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Verb	Noun
6. infect	_____
7. identify	_____
8. collect	_____
9. publish	_____
10. admit	_____

### 5 Vocabulary Work

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns in the right-hand column

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. to collect | a. a statement         |
| 2. to issue   | b. information         |
| 3. to treat   | c. lives               |
| 4. to publish | d. samples             |
| 5. to raise   | e. difficulties        |
| 6. to save    | f. protective clothing |
| 7. to create  | g. questions           |
| 8. to wear    | h. a disease           |

### 6 Discussion

How can SARS be prevented? Which of the following would help stop the spread of SARS?

1. Avoid public places
2. Don't travel to infected areas
3. Don't share glasses, cups or plates
4. Don't wear protective clothing
5. Take anti-biotics

What other methods can you think of?

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### Key

#### 1 Key Vocabulary

1. update
2. flu
3. infectious
4. isolated
5. virus
6. spread
7. rapidly
8. admit

#### 2 True or False

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T

#### 3 Comprehension Check

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. a
5. b

#### 4 Word Building

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. strength       | strengthen |
| 2. length         | lengthen   |
| 3. depth          | deepen     |
| 4. weakness       | weaken     |
| 5. height         | heighten   |
| 6. infection      |            |
| 7. identification |            |
| 8. collection     |            |
| 9. publication    |            |
| 10. admission     |            |

#### 5 Vocabulary work

- 1 d
- 2 a
- 3 h
- 4 b
- 5 g
- 6 c
- 7 e
- 8 f

#### 6 Discussion

- 1, 2 and 3 might help  
4 and 5 would not help