

Subject Painkillers - America's Addiction



1. Match the halves

love		havoc
therein		and a leg
addiction		lies the rub
skin		management
cost an arm		affair
wreak		companies
pharmaceutical		patch
pain		rate

2. Answer the questions to the text

- What does the author call 'the greatest tragedy of the 21st century'?
- What are opioids highly effective at?
- Why were opioids a popular choice for Americans suffering from long-term pain?
- What do we learn about the three distinct waves of the opioid epidemic?
- What does the text say about fentanyl?
- What is a 'pill mill'?
- How do drug cartels from Mexico take advantage of the opioid epidemic in the US?

3. Read the definitions and find the following words/expressions in the text

..... a medicine against cold or sore throat that is sucked

..... dangerous, harmful

..... to make money quickly without trying hard

..... banned by law, illegal

..... causing death

..... money paid as punishment for breaking the law

..... strong and sharp (about pain)

..... addicted

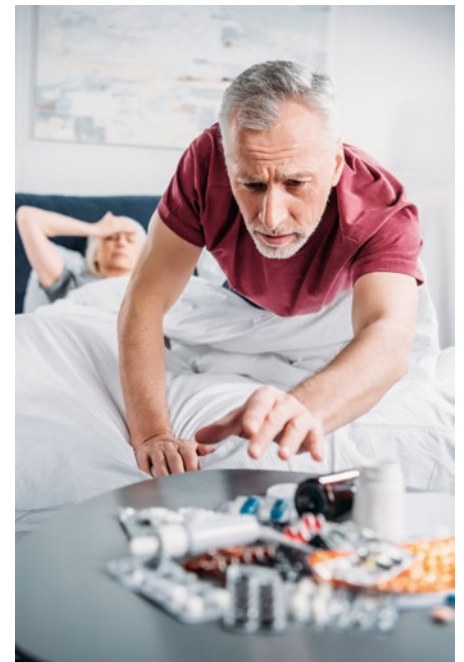
..... a piece of paper given by a doctor with the name of the medicine the patient is supposed to take

lozenges, pernicious, to make a quick buck, illicit, fatal, fine, acute, hooked, prescription

Answer key:

4. List the causes of the opioid epidemic in the US.

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5. Role –play

- A. You are a young adult who often takes opioids every time you have a headache or backache.
- B. You are a psychologist. Try to convince Person A to stop taking opioids. Suggest other pain management strategies.

Use the phrases given below:

- To my mind*
- As I see it*
- I'm not sure about that.*
- That's not how I see it.*
- I beg to differ.*
- I'd suggest*

- Why don't you...?*
- Have you tried...?*
- It's generally a good idea to ...*
-might work.*
- One thing you could do is*