

easy to read

asthma
UK



All about asthma



This book is about asthma

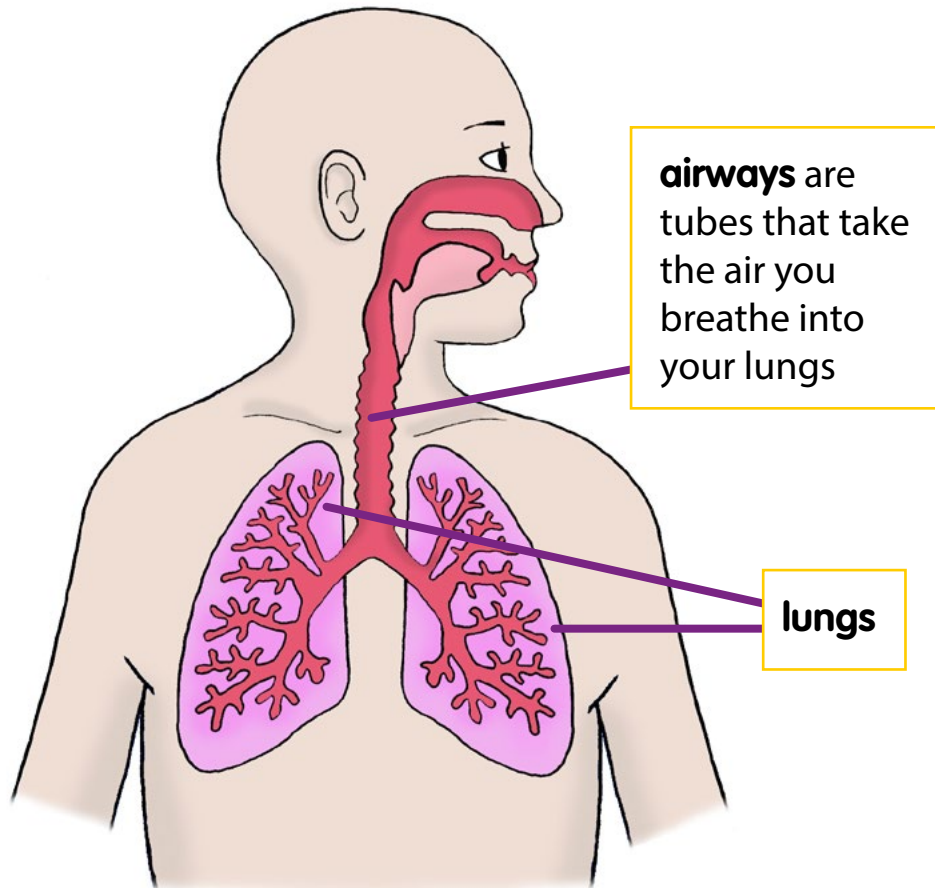
You can get asthma at any age.

Sometimes it starts when you are a child.

Sometimes it starts when you are an adult.

You might get asthma if it is in your family.

This book can help you look after your asthma.



What happens if you have asthma?

If you have asthma your **airways** do not work as well.

- You cough a lot.
- You **wheeze**.
- It is hard to breathe.
- Your chest feels tight.

You might have all of these things.

You might only have some of them.

Wheeze – a noisy whistling sound in your chest when you breathe.

What can make your asthma worse?

Some things can make your asthma worse.

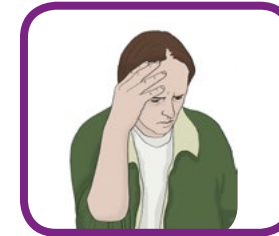
Everyone has different things that make their asthma worse.

Most people have more than one thing.

Here are some things that make asthma worse



pollen



stress



perfume



changes in weather



some animals



colds



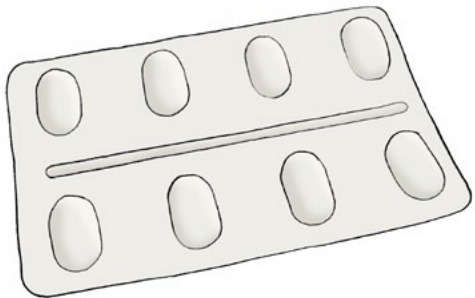
pollution



cigarette smoke



mould and damp



Medicines that can help your asthma

Inhalers

There are two kinds of inhaler.

One is called a reliever.

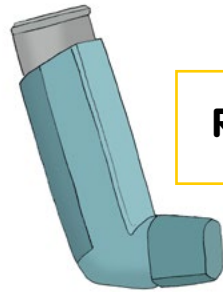
One is called a preventer.

Inhalers can be different shapes.

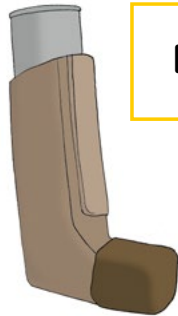
They can be different colours.

Inhalers are sometimes called puffers or pumps.

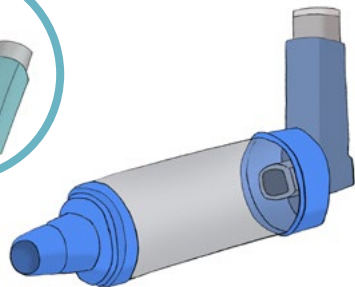
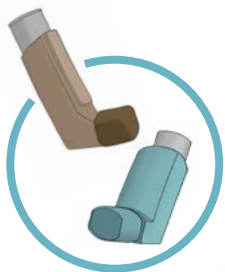
You might have tablets for your asthma too.



Reliever inhaler



Preventer inhaler



Spacer

Relievers

Reliever inhalers are usually blue.

You take them when your asthma feels bad.

They make it easier to breathe.

Keep your blue inhaler with you all the time.

Preventers

Preventer inhalers can be different colours and shapes.

You take them every day even if you feel well.

They make your airways work better.

Spacer

It helps to use a spacer with your inhaler.

A spacer is a plastic tube that

helps you get the medicine into your lungs.



Asthma attack

Sometimes your asthma might get worse.

You are having an asthma attack if any of these things happen:

- you need to use your blue inhaler a lot
- your chest feels tight
- you are coughing and wheezing a lot
- you cannot breathe well
- it is hard to talk.

What to do if you are having an asthma attack



1. Sit up straight. Do not lie down. Try to stay calm.



2. Take one puff of your inhaler every minute until you feel better. You can take up to ten puffs of your blue inhaler.



3. If you do not feel better after ten puffs of your blue inhaler, call 999 for help.

Call **999** if you are worried at any time

Will I have to go to hospital?

You might have to go to hospital.

Take your inhaler with you.

What to do after an asthma attack

Go and see your doctor the same day.

Your doctor will check if your asthma is OK.

You might need to see your doctor again soon.

This is to make sure your asthma is still OK.

Going to the doctor about your asthma

Every year you should go to your doctor for an asthma review. An asthma review is a check up for your asthma.

Your doctor can help you look after your asthma at other times too.

Your doctor will:

- use a **peak flow meter** to check your breathing
- check you are using your inhaler properly
- see if your asthma is better or worse
- talk to you about looking after your asthma.

Peak flow meter – a tube you blow into. It tells the doctor how good your breathing is.





Eat healthy food



Do some exercise



Do things that make you feel happy and relaxed

Being healthy is good for your asthma

Here are some things you can do to be healthy:

- eat **healthy food**
- do some **exercise**
- do things that make you **feel happy and relaxed.**



Exercise

Exercise is good for you.

There are lots of ways to keep fit.

Keep your blue inhaler with you when you exercise.

What if exercise makes your asthma worse?

Talk to your doctor before you start exercising.

Exercise can make asthma worse for some people.

Start with gentle exercise like walking or **yoga**.

Yoga – gentle stretching where you put your body into different positions.



Stop smoking

Smoking is bad for you.

Smoking is bad for your asthma.

Someone smoking near you can make your asthma worse.

Talk to your doctor if you smoke.

Your doctor can help you to stop.

There are groups to support you.

Stopping smoking is good for your asthma.



These people have asthma



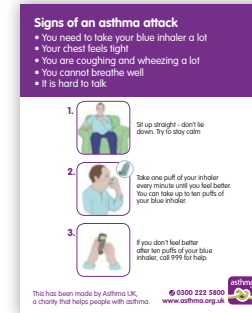
If you look after your asthma you can enjoy lots of different things

Take your preventer inhaler every day to look after your asthma

Your asthma

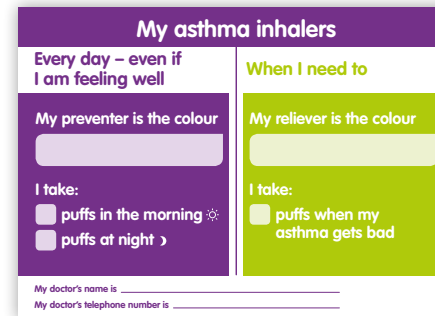
Put something about your own asthma here.

Other information to help you



Asthma attack card

What to do in an asthma attack



Inhaler card

Reminds you when to use your inhalers



Call 0300 222 5800 to get these for free



Go to the website

www.asthma.org.uk/resources

Asthma UK is a charity.

We want to help people look after their asthma well.

If you have any questions about your asthma speak to your doctor or call our Helpline.



0300 222 5800

You can use WhatsApp too



07378 606 728

Thanks to the Elfrida Society. The Elfrida Society is a charity for adults with learning disabilities. Thanks to Bromley Sparks easy read team who helped us with this booklet.

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www.asthma.org.uk

