

Organ and Tissue Donation: It's Your Body!

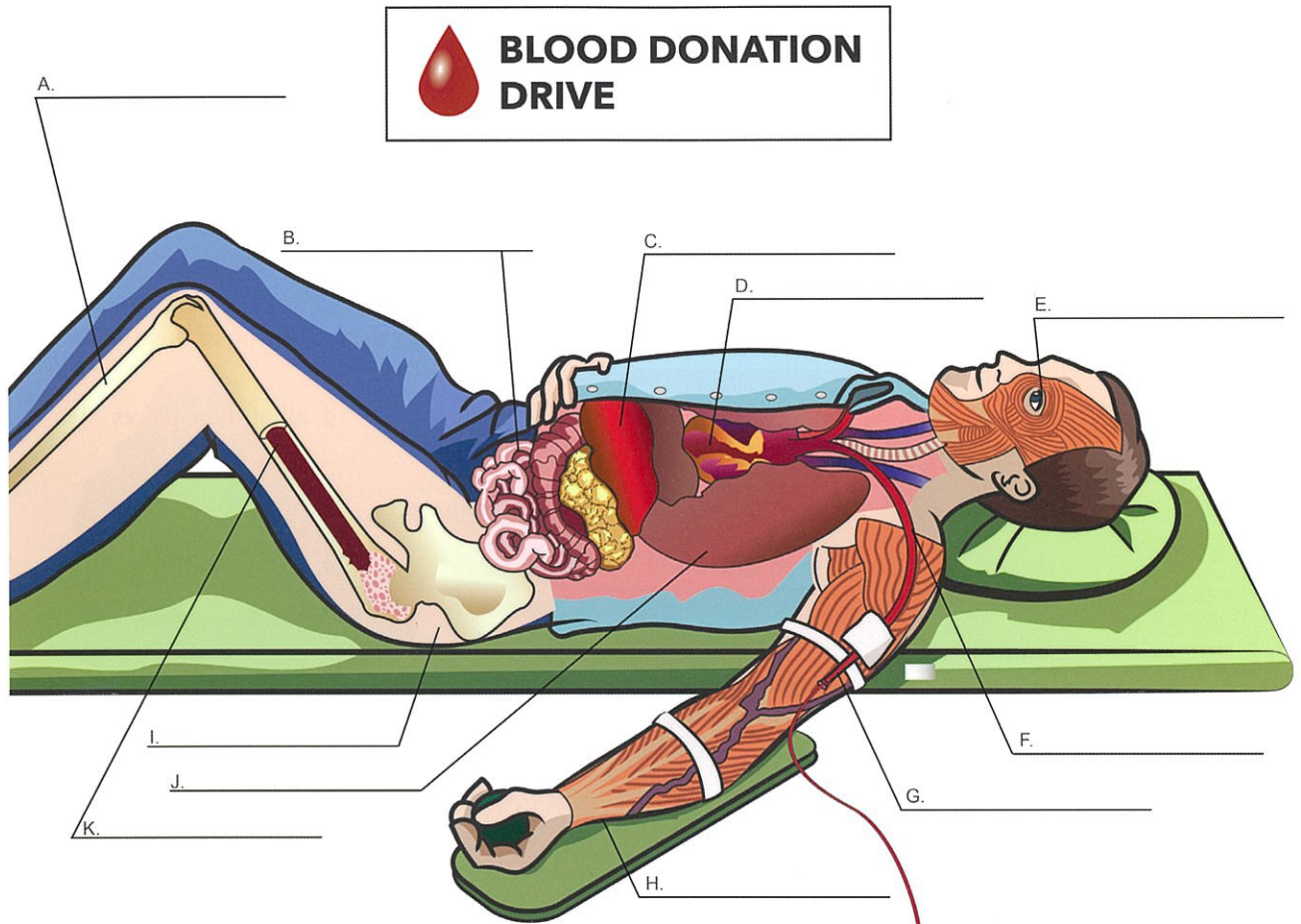
1a Label the picture below using the words in the box. These relate to the organs and tissues of the human body.

cornea
tendons
bone

lung
skin
bone marrow

vein
liver
heart

intestines
blood



1b Discuss the picture above with your partner(s).

How do you feel when you look at the picture?

Have you ever donated blood?

Have you ever received blood from another person?

After you die, would you like your body parts to be used by another person?

While alive, would you ever give one of your kidneys to another person?

What do you think of people who leave their body parts to others?

2a Match the word or phrase with its definition. The first is done for you.

Word or Phrase	Definition
<u>B</u> organ	A. to distribute something to a group of people
_____ tissue	B. a part of the body, such as a lung or eye, which has a special purpose
_____ deceased	C. to give another person a part of your own body
_____ transplant	D. a person who has died
_____ allocate	E. a lack or need of something
_____ shortage	F. similar cells that make up a part of the body, such as the muscles
_____ wait list	G. a record of people waiting to receive an organ
_____ donate	H. a person who has agreed to leave organs or tissues to help other people
_____ donor	I. to move a body part from one person or animal to another
_____ execute	J. to kill a person, following the orders of a government

2b Scan the article for the words and phrases below. Underline them in the article even if the word forms differ.

allocate	donate	execute	shortage	transplant
deceased	donor	organ	tissue	wait list

2c Now, read the article and think about the content.

Have you ever considered that you might need a body part from another person after becoming ill or injured? It is not uncommon.

The first skin transplants for burn victims were done several centuries ago. However, it was not until the twentieth century that transplanting livers, kidneys, and lungs became possible. Entire face transplants are now becoming common. In 2005, French doctors transplanted the face of a deceased woman onto a woman whose face was injured in an accident. Before dying, the donor had signed an organ donor card.

Living donors can donate one lung or one kidney, but most organs come from deceased donors. Thousands of people on organ wait lists die each year because of a lack of organs. Not enough people agree to be donors. In most countries, strict laws limit organ donation, and some religions forbid it.

Rich people are more likely to get organs before poor people. Because of organ shortages and long waits for organs, thousands of rich Japanese, British, Saudis, and others participate in "organ tourism," traveling to other countries where they can purchase organs or get on more than one waiting list. Legal and illegal organ transplantation are profitable businesses.

Although Japanese law forbids paying for organs, some people still do it. A Japanese man who purchased an organ overseas was recently arrested in Japan. Another man in Japan reportedly gave 300,000 yen and a new car to a woman for her kidney.

For many years, the organs of prisoners that were executed in China have been used in transplant operations. This is often done without the criminals knowing what will happen or agreeing to "donate" their organs. Thousands of people from poor countries sell their kidneys because of poverty. These poor people are often cheated by dishonest businessmen and doctors who leave them with terrible medical problems. Newspapers sometimes report stories of people being drugged and waking up in a hospital missing one kidney.

A fair system to allocate organs to needy people is necessary. Many controversial questions need answers. Who should get organs, the sickest people or those who have waited the longest? Should young people receive organs before old people? Who should pay for organ transplants that poor people require? Should selling organs be legal? Your life and happiness may depend on the answers!

3a Listen and write the answers to the questions.



What is the name of the man's son? _____

What school had he just graduated from? _____

What job did he want? _____

What did his teacher tell him about? _____

How many lives has David saved? _____

Which organ saved Mary Kennedy? _____

What do his parents hope you will do? _____

3b Write the missing words on the blanks.

Three years ago, my son, David, died in a car accident. He had _____ graduated from high school, and he _____ a bright future ahead of him. _____ was planning on going to college _____ become a doctor. Both my wife _____ I were heartbroken when we saw _____ lying silently on a hospital bed. _____ was no life in the eyes _____ my child, but we knew that _____ would have wanted his body to _____ used to help others. A high _____ biology teacher had talked about donating _____ to sick people, and after school _____ day he had told us that _____ wanted to do that.

David has _____ the lives of two people and _____ helped five other people recover from _____ and other injuries. He always wanted _____ help other people, and he has. David _____ a hero.

Yesterday, my wife and _____ met Mary Kennedy, a woman whose _____ David's strong young heart helped to _____. It was such an emotional moment _____ us. I will never forget it. _____ let us listen to the sound _____ David's heart. I remembered listening to _____ heart when he was a baby. _____ the three of us hugged each _____, and we all cried tears of _____ and joy over the _____ and gift of a life.

My _____ and I will donate our organs _____ tissues to help others, and we _____ that you will, too.

Based On the Stories of Real Donors and Their Families

3c Discuss the questions below with your partner(s).

If you were the father or mother of David, would you want to meet Mary? Why?

If you were Mary, would you want to meet the parents of a person whose heart you have? Why?

Do you think that they can be friends or not? Why?

If you do not have an organ donor card, do you intend to get one?

3d Role Plays

1. One of you is Mary Kennedy. One of you is David's father or mother. You are meeting for the first time.

2. One of you is David, as a healthy high school student, who is telling his parents that he would like to leave his body for others if he should die. One of you is his mother or father.



4 Discuss the questions below with your partner(s).

Listen to each answer and ask at least one follow-up question.



- Look at the picture of a mouse with an ear growing from its back. Would you receive an organ or tissue from an animal if a doctor suggested it?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- Do you know what steps you need to take to donate your body after death?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- After you are deceased, what parts of your body would you leave or not leave for others?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- If you were very sick and on a long organ wait list, would you go overseas and buy an organ from a live donor?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- What do you think of poor people who sell their organs and the rich who buy them?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- What do you think of using the organs and tissues of executed prisoners?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- Would you agree to let doctors transplant one of your organs to save the life of a family member, a classmate, a friend, or a stranger?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- Why is there a shortage of organs for sick people?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- What is a fair way to allocate organs to sick people?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- Would you allow the organs of a deceased family member to be donated to others?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.
- If it were legal, how much money should living donors get for selling organs?
Listen. Ask a follow-up question.


If you have time, make your own questions and continue talking about this topic.

Deciding Priorities in Allocating Organs and Tissues

5a Read the ideas and circle how you feel about each idea.


Rich people should get organs before poor people.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



The sickest people should get organs before people who are less sick.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



Young people should get organs before old people.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



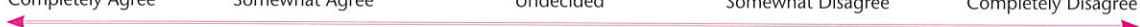
People who have waited the longest should get organs before others.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



People with very important jobs, such as politicians or doctors, should get organs before others.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree




Very attractive people should get organs before others.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



English teachers should get organs before students.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



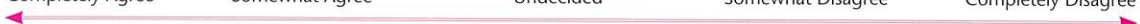
Adults with young children should get organs before adults without children.

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



Write Your Idea:

Completely Agree Somewhat Agree Undecided Somewhat Disagree Completely Disagree



5b Write your own idea above the last line. Then, ask your partner for his or her opinion.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

- *Do you think that teachers should get organs before students?*
- *I completely agree. Our society needs healthy teachers. Moreover, there are millions of students in Japan, but there is a shortage of good teachers.*
- *I somewhat agree. Teachers are important, so they should come first, but very ill students deserve priority before slightly ill teachers.*
- *I am undecided. This is a difficult matter, and I need to think more about it.*
- *I somewhat disagree. Teachers do help society, so they are useful, but teachers are easily replaced by student teachers.*
- *I completely disagree. Teachers are not special. Young students deserve a future. Teachers have already had their chance.*

6a Who Deserves a Liver?

Write the missing words in the blanks below.
This paragraph is an example to help you with 6b.

addition	depend	moreover	scientist
contribute	deserve	only	service

I am the _____ child in my family and my parents _____ on me to take care of them when they are old. _____, I am one of the top students in this class, and I can _____ to world peace by making great speeches in English at the United Nations. In _____, I plan on becoming a great _____ and discovering a cure for cancer. As you can see, I will be of great _____ to the world, so I certainly _____ a liver.

6b All students need a liver, but there are only two livers available.

Each person must explain why he or she deserves a liver. Explain why you are important to society and your family. Listen to the others. Secretly write the name of the two most deserving students. Give the papers to the teacher who will count the names and announce which two students will receive livers.

- Do you think this process is a fair way to allocate organs? Why / Why not?
- Can you suggest a fair process to distribute organs?

