



## Ben has an EEG

### Ben goes to see the doctor with his mum

The doctor thinks Ben has had a seizure. It is sometimes called a fit or a funny turn. So the doctor tells Ben he will be having a test at the hospital called an EEG. EEG stands for electroencephalogram.

The doctor tells Ben that the brain is very clever. It's sending messages all the time to tell our body what to do, like move around, talk, breathe and everything. Sometimes these messages can go wrong. This is when a seizure happens.

### Getting Ben ready for his EEG

Ben is not worried because the EEG specialist has told him it's not painful.

He measures Ben's head to see how big it is and draws little marks on it. The marks tell the doctor where to put the coloured EEG wires. These wires have little round pads on the end of them.

Then he puts the pads on Ben's head using something that looks like jelly to keep the wires on his head, while he has his EEG. Some people could have a cap put on their head to hold the wires.

### Ben has the EEG test

The wires go from the pads on Ben's head into a machine. This machine will draw a pattern of squiggly lines. From these lines the doctor can see if the messages in Ben's brain are going wrong.

First, the doctor asks Ben to sit back or lie down.

Then the doctor tells Ben to relax and stay as still as he can. He asks Ben to take big breaths, open and close his eyes and look at some flashing lights. Ben thinks that's easy and it only takes about half an hour.

When the doctor has finished he takes the pads off Ben so he can go home.

Ben can't wait to tell his friends what happened.

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