

## TS1 - Antibiotics Can/Can’t Answer Sheet

Antibiotics can

Antibiotics can’t

1. Kill bacteria:  
   Some antibiotics work by killing bacteria
2. Stop bacteria growing:  
   Some antibiotics work by stopping the bacteria from growing and reproducing
3. Help pneumonia get better:  
   Pneumonia is often caused by a bacterial infection and is therefore treated with antibiotics
4. Kills many of our natural bacteria in the body:  
   Antibiotics not only kill the harmful bacteria that make you unwell, antibiotics also kill the natural bacteria (commensal) that help keep you healthy
5. Help patients who have bacterial infections after operations get better:  
   A person can easily catch a bacterial infection after they have had an operation if they have stitches or an open wound.  
   Antibiotics are important to treat any infections so they can recover more quickly
6. Encourage our natural bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics:  
   The bacteria in our bodies can become resistant to antibiotics through natural selection.
7. Treat only symptoms:

Antibiotics only indirectly affect symptoms by killing bacteria. Symptoms are better treated with over the counter medicines like paracetamol

1. Help colds get better more quickly:

Colds are caused by viruses and are therefore not affected by antibiotics

1. Kill viruses:

Viruses are not affected by antibiotics

1. Help hay fever get better more quickly:

Hay fever is an allergic reaction and is not caused by bacteria, therefore hay fever will not be helped by antibiotics

1. Help coughs get better more quickly:

Most coughs are caused by viruses and are therefore not helped by antibiotics

1. Help sore throats get better more quickly:

Most sore throats are caused by viruses and are therefore not helped by antibiotics

1. Help ear ache get better more quickly:

Most ear infections are caused by viruses and are therefore not helped by antibiotics

1. Help asthma get better more quickly:

Asthma is caused by inflammation of the lungs and is not caused by bacteria, therefore asthma will not be helped by antibiotics