

Reading

4.17 Listen and read the text: *Antibiotic Resistance*. How can bacteria stop antibiotics working? What are superbugs?

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Alexander Fleming was worried about antibiotic resistance as early as 1945. Bacteria are adaptive and change their structure to stop antibiotics working. For example, some bacteria develop two cell walls, so it is difficult for the antibiotic to enter them. When bacteria become resistant to most antibiotics, we call them *superbugs*.

Antibiotic resistance also happens because people use antibiotics wrongly. 18th November is European Antibiotic Awareness Day, created to encourage people to use antibiotics responsibly.

CLIL vocabulary

allergic = *allergico*
cell wall = *parete cellulare*
course of antibiotics = *ciclo di antibiotici*
develop = *sviluppare*
harmful = *dannoso*
immune system = *sistema immunitario*
resistance = *resistenza*
white blood cells = *globuli bianchi*

by accident

per caso

mould muffa

sick malato

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Antibiotics

The scientist Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) discovered penicillin in 1928 - **by accident!** He forgot about one of his experiments when he went on holiday. When he returned, he found the experiment in a corner of his lab and discovered something new. There was some **mould** without any bacteria around it. He thought the mould contained something that killed bacteria - it was penicillin!

Penicillin was the first antibiotic. Doctors gave it to **sick** patients to cure infections. At first, people thought it was a miracle medicine because it could cure illnesses that killed people. Antibiotics save millions of lives every year.

