

The Schmooze **Stories with a Yiddish Twist**

“DER DOKTER” WILL SKYPE ME... BUT CAN HE DIAGNOSE MY AILMENT?

Note: The Yiddish word for “ill” is “krank”; “di krankayt” means “the illness.”
The Yiddish word meaning “to question” is “fregn.”

by
Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe



Syosset, New York

So you need a “dokter” this “sof-vokh” (weekend), not next week. For a fee of \$40 to \$50, telemedicine companies can connect you quickly to moonlighting doctors via “elektronish post” (email), text, “telefon,” or videoconferencing. These virtual visits are best for “ikerdik” (basic) problems, including obtaining prescriptions and treatments for simple problems (like sinusitis).

Studies show that telemedicine is predicted to triple within the year. Adam Jackson, a cofounder of Doctor on Demand, says that this type of medicine allows busy (“farnumen”) people to access top-quality care in a way that fits into their lives.

“Di frage” (the question): Can these doctors diagnose the following problems:

1. “Dokter, do you speak ‘mamaloshn’--Yiddish? “A bis!” is good. Listen, I’m suffering from an acute case of ‘Cinderella’--a cosmetic surgery procedure to help the feet fit into a particular shoe or shoe style. The point of “Cinderella”: being able to put a shoe on that didn’t fit comfortably before.

Would you suggest “Toe Tucks” (shortening of lengthier second toe),

“Foot sculpture” (eliminating excessive fat), “Footox” (Botox injection to eliminate excessive sweating), and “Cushion COMFEET” (collagen injection or silicone implant into the bottom of feet for comfort?)

2. “Dokter, I’m 52, and I think I need a ‘Cougar lift.’”

A “Cougar lift” is cosmetic surgery performed on a middle-aged woman to enhance her prospects of dating younger (“yinger”) men. Procedures popular among Cougars includes facial filler and buttock (“tokhes”) implants. Leading the ‘Cougar Lifts’ trends are stars like Demi Moore, Kylie and Madonna.

3. “Dokter, oy gevalt. What’s ‘man flu’? I think I have it.”

The doctor at the walk-in center, said that ‘Man flu’ is a severe cold, mistakenly self-diagnosed as the flu particularly by a man. Was he correct? “A cold simply doesn’t sound ‘ehrnst’ (serious) enough?”

4. “Dokter, my wife says I’m got MAS--male answer syndrome.”

Male Answer Syndrome is the tendency for some men to answer a question even when they don’t know the answer. Is it curable?”

5. “Dokter, I’m a spry 55 and I’ve just moved to Century Village in West Palm Beach. My pool buddies call it ‘Cemetery Village,’ and we’ve been having terrible fights. Now I can’t sleep well.....”

6. “Dokter, I’m suffering from ‘Discardia’--tending to throw things away after a few bites. Don’t tell me that old expression, ‘Ess. Ess. The Children in Europe are Starving.’”

7. “Dokter, I’ve got an acute case of ‘BYB’--Blabbing Your Business. According to Elizabeth Bernstein, “It’s happening a lot these days thanks to reality TV and social media sites, where it’s perfectly normal for people to share every single detail of their lives, no matter how mundane or personal.” Perhaps I’m just a ‘flannelmouth’--a smooth talker, a flatterer....”

8. “Dokter, is it possible for an individual’s personality to change over the course of adulthood? I used to be a ‘mensch,’ but.....”

9. “Dokter, was Lucille Ball correct when she said, ‘The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age?’”

10. “Dokter, I’m seriously considering moving to Israel. Why? Because I read that Israeli men have the world’s fourth highest longevity rate.” What do YOU think?”
11. “Dokter, I’m off to visit Israel for the first time. I know that there’s a cable car up Masada, but I would really like to hike up. I’m very ‘ibervog’ (overweight), 240 lbs. What do you think? Too “sakonedik” (dangerous)? Hurry with your reply; my wife is ‘hokking me a tshynik!”
12. “Dokter, I’m experiencing trouble sleeping. I get “a bisl farshlofn” (a little bit of sleep) each night...and get up ‘farmatert’ (tired). Could it be my ‘matrats’ (mattress)?
13. “Dokter,” I think I’m suffering from ‘Scanxiety’--a mental distress felt while awaiting the results of a medical test (cat scan, pet scan, mammogram, etc.)
14. “Dokter,” have you heard of “ringxiety”--the confusion experienced by a group of people when a cell phone rings and no one is sure whose phone it is (or) mistaking a faint sound for the ringing of one’s cell phone? This is no ‘ bobe mayse’--grandmother story...”
15. “Dokter, I’ve got ‘gehakte tsores’ (utter misery; chopped up troubles). I think it’s ‘Quarterlife Crisis’--that feeling of confusion, anxiety, and self-doubt experienced by some people in the twenties, especially after completing their education. I’ve got student loans of \$56,000 and...”
16. “Dokter, could I be suffering from ‘Playlist Anxiety’--anxiety felt by a person who fears what other people might think of the music on his or her digital music player? Is it true that ‘you are what you listen to?’”
17. “Dokter, I think my child has a severe case of ‘Fowlenzia’—the unspecified disease that attacks children when they either (a) don’t wash their hands, b) eat too much Halloween candy, or c) let the dog lick their faces. “Er shmekt nit un er shtinkt nit.” (He doesn’t smell good, and he doesn’t smell bad.) Can you.....”
Ed Spingam term.
18. “Dokter, I’m suffering from Agida. Is that the same as a nervous stomach or heartburn (“harts-brenenish”)? My wife says I should stop

seeing Woody Allen's 'Broadway Danny Rose,' in which a character complains of 'agida in the panza.' Do you think I should use 'bankes'--copping-glasses--for this problem?

19. "Dokter, have you ever heard of BOOGIE FEVER? My family physician, who is on vacation, says that BOOGIE FEVER can pop up anywhere good 'muzik' is played, i.e. in car, at home, at friends. Listen to my symptoms:

They include dancing while sitting, drumming on something that is not a drum, or just getting up and dancing.

Your thoughts would be appreciated.

"A gezunt oyf dayn kop!" (Be with good health.)

20. "Dokter," have you heard of the disease named CHALLAHTOSIS? My friend, Marnie Winston-Macauley defined it as follows: A temporary but painful condition brought upon by the prolonged ingestion and exposure to challah, especially following Shabbat and Jewish holidays. "NIT DO GEDAKHT!" (May it never happen)--here at the Midway Jewish Center.

Ben Eliezer, "The World's Best Jewish Jokes," wrote:

One Jewish doctor to another: "All day long I hear stories of pain and suffering. 'Doctor, my back ("rukn")!' "Doctor, my stomach ("boykh")!

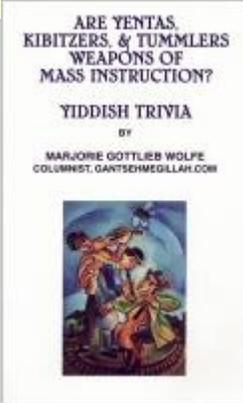
"Doctor, my wife ("froy")! It's awful, I tell you. Tell me, Sam, how come you look so serene after a day listening to the world's troubles?"

Second doctor: "So who listens?"

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Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of two books:



"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and "Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction? Yiddish Trivia." To order a copy, go to her website: MarjorieGottliebWolfe.com

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