What is TB?

TB is short for Tuberculosis. It is an illness caused by a germ. It usually affects the lungs but can travel anywhere in the body.

How did I get it?

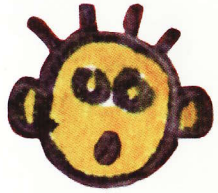
Some people with TB can pass the germ on. When they sneeze or cough the TB germ in their lungs can get into the air. These germs may then be breathed in by other people.

This means anyone **can get TB but usually you have to have a lot of close contact such as living in the same house.**

Then what happens?

1. Your own body may kill the germ and nothing happens.

2. Or sometimes the germ goes into the lungs and falls asleep.



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This is what we call Latent TB.

It is important to treat this as in the future the germs may wake up and make you poorly.

3. Or sometimes the germs go to the lungs and stay active, possibly making you cough and feel tired.

4. Other times the germs may decide to travel and stay somewhere else in your body.

Will I get better?

Yes, we have medicines called antibiotics that can cure TB and make you better.

But it is a strong germ and the medicines must be taken everyday for a long time.

3–6 months for latent TB

6 months for TB in the lungs

6–12 months for TB else where in the body.