

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

JSS 2

WEEK 5

VOD: HIV/AIDS (Comprehension)

NOTE: Do not copy the passage below. Refer to New Concept English book 2 on page 131, copy the comprehension questions and provide the right answers in your note book.

HIV/AIDS

Since 1986, when the first Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) case was reported in Nigeria, the disease has spread like wildfire. By 1991, the number had gone up to 209. Nobody knows the exact figure today as many cases go unreported.

At the beginning of the 21st century, experts were of the opinion that the disease was so nearing epidemic proportions that by the year 2013 about two million cases may be diagnosed in the country. In the same vein, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that by 2013, more than five million children throughout the world would be orphaned as a result of the death of their AIDS-infected parents.

There is no doubt that the virus that causes AIDS, known as HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus), is contained in body fluids. Therefore, the main way it is passed from one person to another is through sex with an infected person. Other ways include blood transfusion and the operations. Many countries are now suffering from the scourge of AIDS. Nigeria, with a population of over 120 million, remains Africa's most populous country. It is clear that unless drastic steps are taken by the government, the nation will have a big problem on their hands.

Unfortunately, despite the seriousness of the disease, there is still widespread ignorance about it, especially in the rural areas where AIDS is widely attributed to the activities of witches and juju. AIDS is a condition in which the immune system in our bodies which protects us from diseases, usually becomes powerless. This results in the cells of our body not being able to fight off illness any more. After a period of between eight and fifteen years, the victim dies.