

## Lesson 9

## READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

## The Dermatologist

Dennis is a dermatologist. Some of his fellow doctors think he picked the easiest specialty in medicine. They are persuaded that caring for someone's skin would be a tedious and boring task.

If Dennis had decided to become a cardiologist or a surgeon, he would have a different life. Dennis's office runs smoothly. He seldom has to rush to cover an emergency.

Dennis thinks his practice is exciting. After all, the skin is the largest organ in one's body. It shields our inner organs and protects us from environmental hazards. It helps to keep our body temperature at a normal level.

Many things can injure the skin. Cuts and burns may allow infectious agents to penetrate. Melanomas or other skin tumors can be life threatening.

Itchy rashes can make life miserable for Dennis's patients. Since skin diseases may be caused by allergies, medications, parasites or even poor nutrition, it takes all of Dennis's detective skills to discover the source of the problem.

His favorite patients are teenagers with acne. They are so distressed by this skin condition that they are predisposed to psychological problems. Because acne improves slowly and requires many treatment sessions, Dennis develops lasting friendships with these patients. Dennis says his professional life is very satisfying.