

1 Heroin is a drug made from material found in poppy flowers. The drug can be used as a painkiller for very sick people in hospitals, but today it is mainly used by drug addicts to get high. Buying, selling, and using heroin are all against the law, so heroin is smuggled into the United States and sold at very high prices.

2 Heroin addicts give the drug to themselves by , sticking a needle into their arms. They say that heroin gives them a beautiful feeling for a few hours—they call it a "rush." The good feeling soon wears off, and they want more. This is what it means to say that heroin is addictive—it makes people need more; it turns them into slaves of the drug. If addicts have been taking a lot of heroin and suddenly stop, they get very sick and can even die.

3 Once people get hooked on heroin, it is almost impossible for them to stop taking the drug unless they get help from a clinic or are put in jail where they can't get the drug. It is hard for a heroin addict to work at a regular job, so many of them steal and kill to get the money to buy more heroin. The people who are really hooked on heroin can be very dangerous criminals. They will steal from anyone and do almost anything to get more of it. This is one reason why there is so much crime in American cities today. Many more young people have become hooked on heroin, and many of them are stealing to get money for more drugs.

4 Some people start taking heroin just for fun, and then before they realize it, they are hooked. But most heroin addicts are people who are unhappy with their lives and want to turn away from their problems by getting high. Many heroin addicts are people who can't find jobs or who have had unhappy experiences. Heroin makes their problems a lot worse.

5 If a pregnant woman is hooked on heroin, her baby also will be hooked on the drug while it is inside her. When the baby is born, it will die unless the doctors give it more heroin through a needle. The only way to save the baby's life is to have the doctors give it a little less heroin every day until the baby gets used to going without it.

6 In recent years, cocaine and crack have joined heroin as widely used drugs. Like heroin, they are highly addictive and lead people into lives of crime. While addicts all over America are messing up their own lives, the pushers and smugglers who sell the drugs are making millions of dollars. They are unconcerned about the tremendous suffering caused by the drug they sell.

1. What is a good use of heroin?

2. How is more heroin used in the United States?

3. Why does heroin have to be smuggled into our country?

4. What is a "rush" from heroin?

5. How do heroin addicts feel a few hours after they have taken the drug?

6. What does the word *addictive* mean?

7. How can a heroin addict kick the habit without dying?

8. Why do addicts steal and kill?

9. What kind of person is most likely to become an addict?

10. What happens to the baby of a pregnant woman who is an addict?

11. Briefly, write what you think of the people who are making money selling drugs to addicts in America.

4 = powerful (extending)
3 = very good (proficient)
2 = developing
1 = emerging

Answer on looseleaf or type it