

What Is a Medicine?

The definition of a medicine or drug

A medicine or drug
Changes how your body works
OR
Treats or prevents a disease or symptom.

A medicine is a drug. **Medicine** and **drug** mean the same thing.

Examples of medicines and non-medicines

Medicine		Not medicine	
Type	Why?	Type	Why?
Fluoride toothpaste	Reduces cavities	Toothpaste without fluoride (i.e., Tom's Natural Care of Maine)	Cleans your teeth
Dandruff shampoo	Treats dandruff and itching	Regular shampoo	Cleans your hair
Antiperspirant	Stops sweat glands from making sweat	Deodorant	Makes you smell better
Hydrocortisone cream	Mild steroid; treats itching and inflammation	Moisturizing cream	Makes your skin smooth and soft
Sunscreen	Prevents sunburn from sun's harmful rays	Aloe vera gel	Makes your sunburn feel better
Lice treatment	Kills lice on hair and body	Insect repellent	Makes a person smell less tasty to biting insects

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