

# Read the Label!

Read the label from an allergy and cold medication below.  
Answer the questions that follow.

<b>Drug Facts</b>	
<b>Active Ingredient (in each tablet)</b> Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg.....	<b>Purpose</b> Antihistamine
<b>Uses</b> temporarily relieves symptoms due to hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies: ■ sneezing ■ runny nose ■ itchy, watery eyes ■ itchy throat	
<b>Warnings</b> <b>Ask a doctor before use if you have:</b> ■ glaucoma ■ a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis ■ trouble urinating due to an enlarged prostate gland <b>Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are taking tranquilizers or sedatives.</b> <b>When using this product:</b> ■ you may get drowsy ■ avoid alcoholic drinks ■ alcohol, sedatives, and tranquilizers may increase drowsiness ■ be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery ■ excitability may occur, especially in children <b>If pregnant or breast-feeding, ask a health professional before use.</b> <b>Keep out of reach of children.</b> In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.	
<b>Directions</b>	
adults and children 12 years and over	take 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 12 tablets in 24 hours
children 6 years to under 12 years	take 1 tablet every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 6 tablets in 24 hours
children under 6 years	ask a doctor
<b>Other information</b> store at 20-25° C (68-77° F) ■ protect from excessive moisture	
<b>Inactive ingredients</b> D&C yellow no. 10, lactose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch	

Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper as necessary.

1. What is the active ingredient in the medication?
2. What is the maximum number of pills someone your age can take in 24 hours?
3. Name an activity that should be avoided while taking this medicine. Explain why.
4. Which substances should not be taken with the medication?
5. Reread the sidebar "Drugs and Alcohol: A Toxic Mix" to understand the effect of a sedative on the body. Explain why a sedative should not be taken with this medication. Include evidence from the label and the article to support your answer.

For more information, visit [scholastic.com/headsup](http://scholastic.com/headsup).