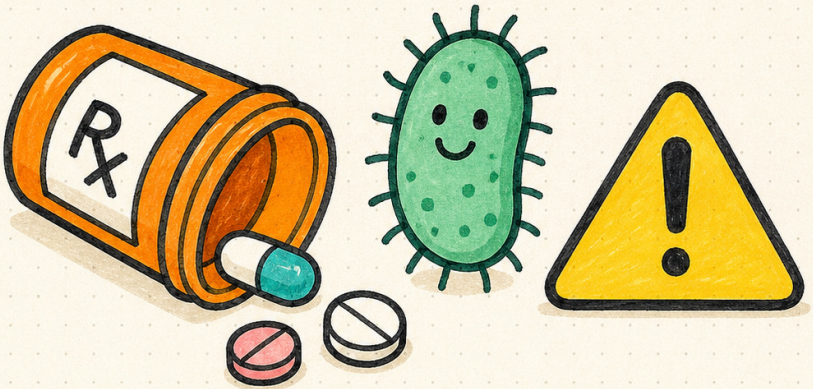


ANTIBIOTIC BUZZWORDS

which side effect gives it away?

USMLE high yield



DON'T MIX THESE UP

classic traps

AMINOGLYCOSIDES

kidney + ear toxicity

MACROLIDES

*QT prolongation +
GI upset*

TETRACYCLINES

*teeth discoloration +
photosensitivity*

FLUOROQUINOLONES

*tendon rupture +
QT prolongation*

VANCOMYCIN

red man syndrome

DAPTOMYCIN

myopathy
• *not for pneumonia*

CLINDAMYCIN

C. diff colitis

METRONIDAZOLE

disulfiram-like reaction

PEARL: *if two answers look close,
pick the one with the signature toxicity.*

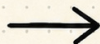


THE FASTEST CLUES

the side effect gives it away

- 1 kidney + ear toxicity → aminoglycosides
- 2 tendon rupture + QT → fluoroquinolones
- 3 red man syndrome → vancomycin
- 4 gray baby syndrome → chloramphenicol
- 5 tooth discoloration + photosensitivity → tetracyclines
- 6 C. diff colitis → clindamycin

PEARL: if the stem gives one weird classic toxicity, it usually wants the antibiotic class.



WHAT THEY HIT

mechanism shortcuts

CELL WALL

penicillins • cephalosporins • vancomycin

30S RIBOSOME

aminoglycosides • tetracyclines

50S RIBOSOME

macrolides • clindamycin • linezolid • chloramphenicol

DNA GYRASE

fluoroquinolones

DNA DAMAGE

metronidazole in anaerobes

PEARL: if the stem asks mechanism, identify the class first.





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high yield USMLE
cheat sheets, every week

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