

Auscultation of the chest

- Ask the patient to take deep breaths through the mouth.
- Using the diaphragm of the stethoscope, auscultate the chest.
- Start at the apex of one lung, and compare one side to the other.
- Normal breath sounds are made of 2 sounds: an inspiratory sound followed immediately without a pause by an expiratory sound
- The inspiratory phase is normally longer and louder
- The expiratory phase is much shorter and fainter