



Prova lliure per a l'obtenció del títol de batxiller 2018

Matèria: Primera llengua estrangera: Anglès

American woman wakes up with British accent

An Arizona woman called Michelle Myers says she has gone to bed with extreme headaches in the past and woke up speaking with what sounds like a foreign accent. At various points, Australian and Irish accents have inexplicably flowed from her mouth for about two weeks, and then disappeared, Myers says. But a British accent has lingered for two years, the 45-year-old Arizona woman told ABC affiliate KNXV.

Myers explains she has been diagnosed with the rare foreign accent syndrome (FAS), and told journalists that she found her condition, "really difficult to begin with". She said: "It was hard because I was really struggling". People would think it was a joke, saying things like, "You sound like a Spice Girl," she told the Sun, a British tabloid. "I have come to terms with the fact that I might sound like this forever. I realize it's part of me now."

Myers told Fox News that doctors said her affliction (FAS) was likely a side effect of a hemiplegic migraine, which produces symptoms that are similar to a stroke, but unlike many stroke or brain-injury victims, sufferers typically produce grammatically correct language. "It's actually quite dangerous," Myers said. "It looks just like a stroke, but it's not a stroke. They don't know how or what triggers it." Living with FAS has meant enduring taunts over a condition that Myers cannot control. Sheila Blumstein, a Brown University linguist who has written extensively on FAS, told The Washington Post for a 2010 article about a Virginia woman who fell down a stairwell, rattled her brain and awoke speaking with a Russian-like accent.

The condition was first documented in 1907 by French neurologist Pierre Marie, and it is a relatively rare one. Only about 60 cases of FAS have been documented over the past century. FAS is a disorder that typically occurs after strokes or traumatic brain injuries that damage the language center of our brain. It varies in the degree to which it affects someone's language and accent. In some cases, someone's native language sounds like it is tinged with a foreign accent; in other instances, rhythm, stress and pronunciation can completely change.

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION, VOCABULARY AND PHONETICS (3 points)

1. Answer the following questions about the text. Use your own words. Do not copy from the text: 1.5 points

a) How did the woman feel about her new condition when she started speaking with a foreign accent?

b) What is F.A.S?

c) How is F.A.S related to a stroke?

2. Vocabulary: Find synonyms (expressions or words) for these concepts in the text.

In the case of verbs, only infinitive forms will be accepted: 1 point

- a) Stay
- b) Consequence, outcome, sequel
- c) Cause, generate
- d) In fact
- e) Impregnate

3. Phonetics: Circle the odd one out: 0.5 points

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| A) | a) show | b) now | c) go | d) blow |
| B) | a) invented | b) ended | c) documented | d) walked |

PART 2: USE OF ENGLISH (4 points)

Complete each of the activities in the space provided **using the words or instructions given, or choose the correct option**. In some cases, when more than one option is possible, do not write more than one.

1. Their wedding will be spectacular. It will be held in a church. **(Rewrite the two sentences using a relative clause).**

2. I last saw Bob when I was in Ho Chi Minh City. **(Rewrite using *since*).**

3. Jane gave me a present on my last birthday. **(Rewrite into passive voice).**

I _____

4. I'm sure that someone forgot to give me the key. **(Rewrite using *must*)**

5. I wish I _____ home earlier last night. I'm so tired today. **(Choose the correct option)**

a) had gone b) went c) was going

6. You have such a big and comfortable house! **(Rewrite using "so")**

7. 'Do you know the way to the Italian restaurant?' Marta asked Maria. **(Rewrite into reported speech).**

8. Write a **CONDITIONAL SENTENCE** that encloses this meaning: You should take the train instead of the bus.

If - _____

9. What a noise! You fed the cat, _____ you? **(Choose the correct option)**

a) did b) didn't c) won't

10. Don't smoke in the forest. Fires easily break..... at this time of the year. **(Choose the correct option)**

a) up b) down c) out

PART 3: WRITING (3 points)

CHOOSE ONE OPTION. Your essay must be 150 words long approximately and contain a correct structure, appropriate vocabulary, and a logical distribution of paragraphs (2 points). Your personal creativity and the absence of serious grammar mistakes will be positively valued (1 point).

Option 1: Learning foreign languages is very useful for young people today. Discuss.

Option 2: Do you think governments should invest more on medical investigation of rare diseases? Give your opinion