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Level 5

American woman wakes up with British accent

15th February, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180215-british-accent-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180215-british-accent-5.html>

An American woman has the rare Foreign Accent Syndrome. The woman, Michelle Myers, 45, said that she went to bed with a "blinding headache" and woke up with a British accent. She has had the accent since 2015. Ms Myers has woken up speaking accents before. She was totally perplexed at speaking with an Australian or Irish accent. These lasted two weeks but the UK accent has remained. Myers said her condition was "really difficult to begin with". She said: "It was hard because I was really struggling. I have come to terms with the fact that I might sound like this forever."

Foreign Accent Syndrome usually occurs after strokes or brain injuries that damage the brain's language center. It varies in how much it affects someone's accent. In some cases, someone's language sounds like it has a hint of a foreign accent; in other cases, rhythm and stress can totally change. The condition was first documented in 1907 by a French neurologist. It is a relatively rare condition, with just 60 cases being documented over the past century. One of these was a Japanese stroke patient who woke up sounding Korean, even though he had never been to Korea.

Sources: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2018/02/12/an-american-says-she-fell-asleep-with-a-headache-and-woke-up-with-a-british-accent/?utm_term=.83702325e4cf
<https://www.livescience.com/61738-arizona-woman-wakes-up-with-british-accent.html>
<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/arizona-woman-wakes-speaking-british-accent-article-1.3815970>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180215-british-accent-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. the rare Foreign | a. begin with |
| 2. she went to bed with a blinding | b. with the fact |
| 3. She was totally | c. Accent Syndrome |
| 4. These lasted two weeks but the | d. like this forever |
| 5. really difficult to | e. perplexed |
| 6. It was hard because I was | f. UK accent has remained |
| 7. I have come to terms | g. headache |
| 8. I might sound | h. really struggling |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Foreign Accent Syndrome usually | a. century |
| 2. injuries that damage the brain's | b. condition |
| 3. rhythm and stress can | c. been to Korea |
| 4. It is relatively rare | d. language center |
| 5. with just 60 cases being | e. occurs after strokes |
| 6. over the past | f. up sounding Korean |
| 7. a Japanese stroke patient who woke | g. documented |
| 8. even though he had never | h. totally change |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180215-british-accent-5.html>

An American woman (1) _____ Foreign Accent Syndrome. The woman, Michelle Myers, 45, said that she went to bed with a "blinding headache" and (2) _____ a British accent. She has had the accent since 2015. Ms Myers has woken up (3) _____. She was totally perplexed at speaking with an Australian or Irish accent. These lasted two weeks but the UK (4) _____. Myers said her condition was "really (5) _____ with". She said: "It was hard because I was really struggling. I have (6) _____ with the fact that I might sound like this forever."

Foreign Accent Syndrome usually occurs after (7) _____ injuries that damage the brain's language center. It (8) _____ much it affects someone's accent. In some cases, someone's language sounds like it (9) _____ of a foreign accent; in other cases, (10) _____ can totally change. The condition was first documented in 1907 by a French neurologist. It is a relatively rare condition, with (11) _____ being documented over the past century. One of these was a Japanese (12) _____ woke up sounding Korean, even though he had never been to Korea.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180215-british-accent-5.html>

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ACCENTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1802/180215-british-accent-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about accents in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

