

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 1 • Elementary

#### 1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

transplant  
surgeon

rejects  
recluse

patients  
wounded

donor  
hug

anonymous  
mask

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a medical operation in which a new organ, taken from the dead body of another person, is put into someone's body. (title)
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a doctor who does operations that involve cutting open someone's body, usually in a hospital. (para 1)
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is something you wear to cover all or part of your face. (para 1)
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who lives alone and doesn't want to see other people. (para 4)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are people who are receiving medical treatment. (para 5)
6. If someone is \_\_\_\_\_, nobody knows their name. (para 5)
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who gives part of their body to be used in the medical treatment of someone else. (para 5)
8. If you are \_\_\_\_\_, you are injured. (para 7)
9. If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone, you put your arms round them to show your love or friendship. (para 8)
10. If someone's body \_\_\_\_\_ a new organ in a transplant operation, it does not accept that organ. (para 9)

#### 2 Find the information

Look in the text and find the following information about Richard Norris, a face transplant patient.

1. How long did the face transplant operation take?
2. How old is Norris?
3. When did the gun accident happen?
4. How many people have had face transplant operations?
5. When was the first face transplant operation?
6. How many medical staff were involved in Norris's operation?

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#### Face transplant man Richard Norris has 'life restored'

James Meikle  
28 March, 2012

- 1 Richard Norris saw his new face in a mirror for the first time, three days after a 36-hour face transplant operation. He didn't know what to say. But one of his surgeons said how he felt – "this is so cool," he said, lots of times. Norris, 37, had worn a mask since he lost his lips, nose and part of his tongue in a gun accident in 1997.
- 2 The accident did not affect his eyesight so, as soon as possible after his surgery in Baltimore, he asked to see his new face. On the same day, he told them that he could smell too. The operation was on 19 and 20 March. A week later, he was able to brush his teeth and shave. His new face, said surgeon Eduardo Rodriguez, is "a combination of two people".
- 3 Norris is the twenty-third person to have a partial or full face transplant. Surgeons in France did the first transplant in 2005 on a woman who had been attacked by her dog. A picture of how Norris looks now shows how his face has changed since his high-school graduation in 1993, and since the gun accident that destroyed most of his face.
- 4 Before the transplant, Norris lived as a recluse. He didn't eat in public and shopped for food at night. Since the accident, he has not had a full-time job and has already had many operations. "This accidental injury just destroyed everything," said Rodriguez. "His friends and colleagues got married, had children and bought homes. Now he wants to do all that."
- 5 The operation involved more than 150 doctors, nurses and other staff. The operation was part of a bigger 72-hour operation in which surgeons also transplanted into other patients a heart, both lungs, a liver and a kidney from the same anonymous donor. For Norris, the surgeons transplanted teeth, the jaw, part of the tongue and the face from the head to the bottom of the neck.
- 6 The most dramatic moment, according to Rodriguez, was after the team had removed all the material from past operations to rebuild Norris's face. All that was left was part of his tongue and a bit of protection for his eyes. "At this point we had to be successful."
- 7 The work in Baltimore has been made possible by US defence and naval research departments. They have provided the money for face and hand operations for wounded soldiers. More than 1,000 soldiers have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and the government believes up to 200 soldiers could now have face transplants. Doctors say they hope they can operate on military patients soon.
- 8 Norris was chosen from a group of five possible patients, said Rodriguez. The selection process included psychological testing. He described Norris's reaction to seeing a mirror "as one of the most emotional moments for him as well as for all of us. He put down the mirror and thanked me and hugged me, which was wonderful ..." The operation, said Rodriguez, has "given him back the 15 years he had lost. We are making him a full member of society again."
- 9 Norris will have to take drugs for the rest of his life so his body does not reject the face.
- 10 At a press conference to explain the surgery, Rodriguez said: "It is an amazing experience to look at him. It's difficult not to stare. Before, people used to stare at Richard because he wore a mask ... Now they have another reason to look at him, and it is really amazing."

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#### 3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make sentences about the text.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Richard Norris didn't know what to say ...                  | a. ... so his body does not reject his new face.                |
| 2. He had worn a mask ...                                      | b. ... because he wore a mask.                                  |
| 3. The first face transplant operation ...                     | c. ... when he saw his new face in a mirror for the first time. |
| 4. More than 150 medical staff ...                             | d. ... were involved in the operation on Richard Norris.        |
| 5. Norris will have to take drugs for the rest of his life ... | e. ... since a gun accident in 1997.                            |
| 6. People used to stare at Norris ...                          | f. ... was done by surgeons in France in 2005.                  |

#### 4 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- his for rest life the of
- after three days 36-hour operation a
- so is cool this
- attacked woman dog by a her been who had
- a part operation of bigger
- soldiers more one than thousand

#### 5 Expressions with prepositions

Choose the correct preposition to complete the phrases from the text. Check your answers in the text.

- on / in public
- at / in night
- stare at / on someone
- up to / from 200 people
- see your face on / in a mirror

#### 6 Suffixes

Use these suffixes to complete the words.

-ion

-ment

-ful

-al

-ful

-er

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. success_____  | 4. research_____ |
| 2. accident_____ | 5. react_____    |
| 3. depart_____   | 6. wonder_____   |

#### 7 Discussion

Would you like to have another person's face? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

#### 1 Key words

1. transplant
2. surgeon
3. mask
4. recluse
5. patients
6. anonymous
7. donor
8. wounded
9. hug
10. rejects

#### 2 Find the information

1. 36 hours
2. 37
3. in 1997
4. 23
5. in 2005
6. more than 150

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. c
2. e
3. f
4. d
5. a
6. b

#### 4 Chunks

1. for the rest of his life
2. three days after a 36-hour operation
3. this is so cool
4. a woman who had been attacked by her dog
5. part of a bigger operation
6. more than one thousand soldiers

#### 5 Expressions with prepositions

1. in
2. at
3. at
4. to
5. in

#### 6 Suffixes

1. -ful
2. -al
3. -ment
4. -er
5. -ion
6. -ful

#### Teacher's note

You can find out more information about Richard Norris's face transplant, including before and after pictures and videos, at the University of Maryland website: <http://www.umm.edu/facetransplant/>

Alternatively, type *Richard Norris face transplant* into a search engine.