

## Face transplant man has 'life restored'

### Level 2 • Intermediate

#### 1 Key words

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

scalp	rejection	transplant	bone marrow	donor
outpatient	funding	hug	anonymous	recluse

- 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)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who lives alone and avoids seeing other people. (para 4)
- If someone is \_\_\_\_\_, nobody knows their name. (para 5)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who gives part of their body to be used in the medical treatment of someone else. (para 5)
- A person's \_\_\_\_\_ is the skin under the hair on their head. (para 5)
- An \_\_\_\_\_ procedure is one in which you receive treatment at a hospital but you do not stay overnight. (para 6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is money that a government or organization provides for a specific purpose. (para 7)
- If you \_\_\_\_\_ someone, you put your arms round them to show your love or friendship. (para 8)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is the failure of someone's body to accept a new organ in a transplant operation. (para 9)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the soft substance inside bones. (para 9)

#### 2 Find the information

Scan the article to find the information.

- How long did the face transplant operation take?
- When did Norris have the gun accident?
- When was the first face transplant?
- When did Norris shop for groceries?
- How many medical staff were involved in the operation?
- How many troops may be eligible for face transplants?

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

**James Meikle**  
28 March, 2012

- 1 When Richard Norris first saw his new face in a mirror, three days after a 36-hour face transplant operation, he was lost for words. But his doctors expressed how he felt – “this is so cool,” one of his surgeons kept repeating. Norris, 37, had worn a mask since a gun accident took away his lips, nose and the front part of his tongue in 1997.
- 2 His vision was not badly affected by the accident so, as soon as possible after his surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center, he asked to see the results of the operation. On the same day, he told them that he could smell too. The operation took place on 19 and 20 March. A week later, he was able to brush his teeth and shave. His new face, said lead surgeon Eduardo Rodriguez, is “a combination of two individuals”.
- 3 Norris is the twenty-third person to have had a partial or full face transplant. The first was performed in France, 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 much of his face.
- 4 Norris had been living as a recluse, avoiding eating in public and shopping for groceries at night. Since the accident, he has not had a full-time job and has already had numerous operations. “This accidental injury just destroyed everything,” said Rodriguez. “His friends and colleagues went on to start getting married, having children, owning homes. He wants to make up for all that.”
- 5 The operation involved more than 150 doctors, nurses and other staff. It was part of a remarkable 72 hours in which surgeons also transplanted a heart, both lungs, a liver and a kidney from the same anonymous donor, to other patients. For Norris, the surgeons transplanted teeth, the upper and lower jaw, a portion of the tongue and all facial tissue from the scalp to the base of the neck.
- 6 The most dramatic moment, according to Rodriguez, was after the team had removed all previous attempts to reconstruct Norris's face. All that was left was part of his tongue and minimal protection for his eyes. That was the point of no return. “At this point we had to be successful.” Now, however, Norris's face will need only minor, outpatient procedures.
- 7 Many developments in Baltimore have been made possible by US defence and naval research departments, which have provided funding 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 may be eligible for face transplants. Doctors say they hope to operate on military patients soon.
- 8 Norris was chosen from five potential 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 a wonderful gift ...” The operation, said Rodriguez, had “restored the 15 years he had lost. We are making him a functioning member of society again.”
- 9 Rolf Barth, a transplant surgeon, said researchers had found there were fewer rejections with transplants involving a large amount of bone marrow with its own blood supply. Norris would have to take drugs for the rest of his life to stop his body from rejecting the face. “This was the perfect patient to put into practice what we had discovered in the laboratory,” he said.
- 10 Rodriguez, at a press conference to explain the surgery, said: “It is a surreal experience to look at him. It's hard 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

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. Richard Norris's face transplant was the first in the world.
2. No one had tried to reconstruct Norris's face before.
3. The new face came from one donor.
4. People stared at Norris because he wore a mask.
5. Norris also had heart and liver transplants.
6. Norris isn't yet able to see his face in the mirror.

#### 4 Find the word

Find the following words and expressions in the text.

1. a three-word expression meaning *so surprised or shocked that you do not know what to say* (para 1)
2. an informal adjective meaning *impressive* (para 1)
3. a three-word phrasal verb meaning *experience something good, so that something bad seems less important* (para 4)
4. a noun meaning *a part of something* (para 5)
5. an adjective meaning *relating to the face* (para 5)
6. a five-word expression meaning *the moment when it becomes impossible to change or stop something* (para 6)
7. an adjective meaning *allowed by law or rules to receive something* (para 7)
8. an adjective meaning *so strange that you cannot believe it is real* (para 10)

#### 5 Two-word expressions

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make phrases from the text.

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. full-time  | a. conference |
| 2. anonymous  | b. job        |
| 3. lower      | c. procedure  |
| 4. outpatient | d. jaw        |
| 5. press      | e. donor      |

#### 6 Word-building

Complete the tables.

	noun	adjective
1.	face	
2.	navy	
3.	accident	

	noun	adjective
4.	drama	
5.	emotion	
6.	psychology	

#### 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. recluse
3. anonymous
4. donor
5. scalp
6. outpatient
7. funding
8. hug
9. rejection
10. bone marrow

#### 2 Find the information

1. 36 hours
2. in 1997
3. in 2005
4. at night
5. more than 150
6. up to 200

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. F
6. F

#### 4 Find the word

1. lost for words
2. cool
3. make up for
4. portion
5. facial
6. the point of no return
7. eligible
8. surreal

#### 5 Two-word expressions

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

#### 6 Word-building

1. facial
2. naval
3. accidental
4. dramatic
5. emotional
6. psychological

#### 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.