

# Three women in different countries wake up with foreign accents

## Vocabulary Match

condition • syndrome • migraine • accent • impediment • occurred •  
• headache • happened • barrier • problem • illness • dialect

## Article

Three women from different parts of the world were featured in a recent episode of "60 Minutes Australia" because they all share an extremely rare condition called Foreign Accent Syndrome.

The women - Cindy Hastings, Sarah Colwill, and Kay Russell - all had severe migraines before waking up the following morning with different accents.

Cindy from Australia now speaks with an Eastern European accent, Sarah from England now speaks with a Chinese accent, and Kay from the UK now speaks with a French accent.

Dr. Nick Miller explains that the change in speech is actually a speech impediment caused by whatever condition occurred in the brain as a result of the migraines.

The patients will likely suffer from it for the rest of their lives.

## Quiz

1. What is the name of the rare condition featured on "60 Minutes Australia"?
2. What is the explanation given by Dr. Nick Miller for the change in speech?

## Conversation:

Sarah: I can't believe I woke up with a Chinese accent, just because I had a migraine.

Kay: I know, it's like our brains got rewired overnight.

Sarah: It's been so hard, people just don't believe it's real.

Kay: Yeah, some of my friends stopped talking to me because of my accent.

Sarah: I've given up trying to explain it to people, it's just too exhausting.

Kay: At least we have each other to talk to about it.

## Discussion

1. Have you ever experienced a sudden change in your body or health?
2. What would you do if you woke up one day speaking with a foreign accent?
3. Which English accent would you like to speak fluently with?
4. If you could wake up speaking any language fluently, which one would you choose?