

# How to Live With Foreign Accent Syndrome

By Allen Smith, eHow User



Can you imagine going to bed one night and waking up speaking with a French accent? Even if you've never been to France? A rare and misunderstood speech motor disorder called Foreign Accent Syndrome emerges in people who often sustain physical blows to the head, resulting in changes to their speech pattern that mimics a foreign language, even if the person has never visited that country. It affects both vowels and consonants and while the affected individual cannot actually speak a foreign language, they do speak with a distinctive accent. Here are guidelines on its diagnosis and treatment.

Difficulty: Moderately Challenging

## Instructions

- 1 While Foreign Accent Syndrome (FAS) can occur through unknown origins or incidents such as an allergic reaction to drugs or chemicals, it is generally the result of a blow to the head or some other head trauma.
- 2 The speech patterns can vary in tone and type but are typically slow, measured and described as "peculiar." The patient may also suffer from mild memory and attention deficits.
- 3 Individuals with Foreign Accent Syndrome usually respond well to treatment. This includes speech therapy sessions with a language pathology expert, 3 to 5 times a week.
- 4 Therapists train the patient to imitate the spontaneous sound of lists containing 32 words for each treatment area. Treatment also includes shaping the phonetics of words and discriminating between a variety of auditory perception techniques.