

1. In 1947, neurologist Joachim Bodamer met a former soldier who had been
2. injured during World War II when a bullet penetrated his brain. After the
3. bullet was removed, the man could no longer recognize people by looking at
4. their faces. Although similar cases had been described throughout the 19<sup>th</sup>
5. century, Bodamer was the first doctor to coin the term prosopagnosia, or “face
6. blindness.” For many years, face blindness was considered ( 26 ). By the
7. 1970s, however, people with no history of injury were being diagnosed. In 2006,
8. a study led by Ingo Kennerknecht of the University of Munster in Germany
9. determined face blindness can also be caused by a single faulty gene. It is now
10. believed that in the United States up to 2.5 percent of the population suffers
11. from this inherited variant of face blindness.



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22. cannot recognize their own children, or even themselves in a mirror. Bill
23. Choisser, a sufferer who has created a website devoted to face blindness, says
24. sufferers develop alternative ways of recognizing people, such as remembering
25. features like hair and clothing. Choisser notes that these techniques ( 27 ).
26. He says he had to leave the U.S. Navy because he could not differentiate
27. between his fellow sailors, who all wore the same uniforms and had similar
28. haircuts. Another sufferer admits she always says “Nice to see you” instead of
29. “Nice to meet you” when being introduced to people, in case she has met them
30. before and is failing to recognize them.

31. \*Choose the correct answer to fill in the blank from these choices.

32. (27) 1 may conflict with medical advice      2 are not unique to face blindness
33.        3 may lead to new symptoms            4 are not always reliable

### Further Questions

34. 3) What are some daily challenges that sufferers must cope with?

35. *Some cannot follow movie plots while others cannot remember clients or*  
36. *colleagues.*  
37. **4) How do sufferers develop alternative ways of recognizing people?**  
38. *They develop alternative ways of recognizing people, such as remembering*  
39. *features like hair and clothing.*  
40. **5) What does one sufferer do when she is introduced to people?**  
41. *She always says “Nice to see you” instead of “Nice to meet you”.*
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42. Many doctors are ( **28** ) face blindness. The Internet has therefore become a unique resource for sufferers, enabling them to learn about their condition and connect with each other. Choisser’s website, for example, has compensated somewhat for the lack of information in the medical literature and has done a great deal to educate the public about the existence of face blindness. Other websites and Internet groups are following in Choisser’s footsteps, causing author Joshua Davis to comment, “In many ways, this is a neurological condition discovered by Yahoo.”

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