

Academic Year: 2012/2013 Level: 1st BAC

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Humor and Cancer

Many of us feel awkward in joking in front of terminally ill patients. Many may even consider it inappropriate or insensitive. However, it has been known scientifically that the best thing you can do to your friends is to provide a humorous environment and let them "forget" about their condition. Sitting and feeling sorry for their condition will not help them much.

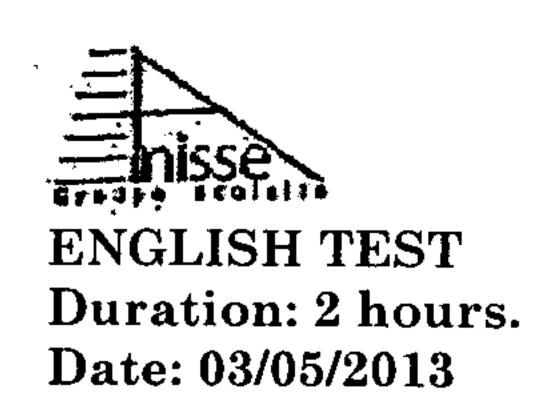
Dr.Michael B. Van Scoy-Morhser, an oncologist in California says that "one characteristic of the cancer patient who does well is the ability to often put cancer in the background for period of time." TV journalist Linda Ellerbee wrote about some of her cancer experiences and of being bald in the January 1993 edition of McCall's:"That summer I bought some breast prostheses to use while swimming. Instead of fastening them to my skin with Velcro as the directions instructed, I simply inserted the prostheses into my bathing suit. When I came out of the water, one had migrated around to my back! Now, how can you not laugh at such a thing? Either you laugh or your cry your eyes out... it's something I've tried to teach my kids as well. When my 23-year-old daughter saw me with my bald head and no breast, she said, "You look just like a Buddha without the wisdom", and we both howled. I think we are never braver than when we stand tall and look into the sun and laugh. Laughter may be a form of courage."

In his book "Intoxicated by My Illness," Anatole Broyard wrote about the final months of this life after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He stated that "Illness is primarily a drama, and it should be possible to enjoy it as well as to suffer it.... Illness," after all, "is not all tragedy. Much of it is funny."

I. <u>COMPREHENSION</u>: (15 points)

- A- Read the text carefully and answer the following questions (5 pts)
 - 1- What's the best thing you can do to an ill person?
 - 2- What did Linda Ellerbee do in the swimming pool?
 - 3- What did her daughter tell her?
 - 4- What was Anatole Broyard diagnosed with?
 - 5- How did he react to his disease?
- B- Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Justify your answers (5 pts)
 - 1- Joking with ill people is inappropriate.
 - 2- When you visit ill people you have to show that you are sorry for their conditions.
 - 3- Linda Ellerbee wrote about one of her parent's experience with cancer.
 - 4- Linda's daughter said that she likes Buddha.
 - 5- Anatole Broyard said in his book that we should be positive with our illnesses.

C-	<u>Fin</u>	<u>d in the text words that mear</u>	n the same as : (5 pts)
	1-	Incurably:	•••••••••••••••••••••
	2-	Hairless:	
	3-	Tying:	••••••••••••••••••••••••
	4-	Knowledge and intelligence:	•••••
		Disease:	



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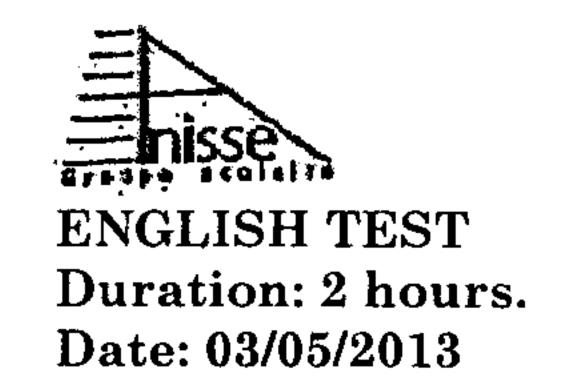
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II. <u>Language</u>: (15 points)

A- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box : (2,5 pts)

Bump into = meet somebody you know unexpectedly Look forward to = expect something to happen because you think you will enjoy it Put somebody through = connect somebody by telephone Turn out = result in a particular way Stand by = support somebody who is in a difficult situation	 1- I feel so tired that I 2- Ms Nichols the factory. 3- You won't believe who I Mrs. Davis, my primary school teat 4- Hang on a second, please! I 5- Fiona's party last week 	her husband when he lost his job at the other day! acher to the manager.
A reporter asked Mic follow the champion's doesn't come easy a wake up	hael to tell the readers what they s footsteps. First of all, you train hard. early in the morning to train and	to do in order tobear in mind that success "When I was still at school, I I rushed off to school. After
neglect your studies.	e more, says Michael. At the same time, ho	
 Start, begin ≠ — Win ≠ — Remember ≠ — Drop ≠ — Disagree ≠ — 		

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D-	<u>Re</u>	write the sentences with the words given : (6 pts)
	1-	Carla is less talented than Sophie. Sophie
	2-	The more you eat, the fatter you will get. If
	3-	"Sign my poster, please!" Penny begged the singer. Penny
	4-	People shouldn't throw rubbish in the sea. Rubbish
	5-	"What will you do next summer, Jill?" Peter wanted to know. Peter wanted to know
	6-	I left the office, and then I realized my briefcase was still on my desk. After
-	<u> Υοι</u>	I learnt that your best friend has become a drug-addict. Give him a piece of advice (1pt)
	Wh	at does the following sentence express? (1/2 pt) Agreement? Opinion? Advice?

+ Personally speaking, I think that women should space out their pregnancies.