

Sight translation

Exercise 4

Sight translation: test language to English

My name is Kevin Miller. I am the youngest brother of the late Linda Miller. She had been like a mother to me since our mother died when I was only four - she was sixteen at the time and took over my care. I still remember the day before my twentieth birthday when I saw her entering my sister's house ... She was energetic, a ball of fire with a heart of gold. I was fortunate to have been with her that day. Unfortunately, this would be the last time I would ever see her. That was three years ago today.

The following month I moved to California from Canada and soon afterwards I found a job in Silicon Valley. One day, when I was doing some research on line, I was shocked to see that the DNA of a woman named Linda Miller had been uncovered in an abandoned farm back home.

From California, I contacted my sister Cynthia who had not told me anything about Linda's disappearance. My relatives did not want to contact me until they had more definite information about her whereabouts, after all, she would occasionally go away for a few weeks to "find herself." My family was in an apparent state of distress as a result of the discovery of Linda's DNA and some of her clothing in the abandoned farm.

The shock, the anger, and the lack of answers: how could this happen? My family rallied together during this difficult time. Linda's body was never found. I don't know if this nightmare is ever going to end.

264 words

Examples of scoring unites in sight translation test language to English

Scoring unit example	Type with explanation
She had been like a mother to me since our mother died when I was only four	Structure - complex sentence
she was sixteen	Numbers and names second of two numbers
my care	General vocabulary
I still remember the day before my twentieth birthday when I saw her entering my sister's house	Structure - complex sentence
a ball of fire	Idiomatic language - metaphor
a heart of gold	Idiomatic language - fixed phrase
That was three years ago today	Words or phrases likely to be omitted due to their position - end of sentence
Silicon Valley	Numbers and names
DNA	Specialized terminology/phraseology - Forensic medical terminology
in an abandoned farm back home	Words or phrases adding precision or emphasis
her whereabouts	General vocabulary
after all	Words or phrases likely to be omitted due to their position - linking phrase at beginning of clause
she would occasionally go away	Grammar - modal auxiliary + verb
to "find herself"	Idiomatic language - fixed phrase
in an apparent state of distress	Words or phrases adding precision or emphasis
in an - apparent state of distress	General vocabulary
(how) could - this happen	Grammar - modal auxiliary + verb
rallied together	General vocabulary