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**Level 1** – 17th April, 2020

## 50,000-year-old piece of string found

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200417-piece-of-string-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200417-piece-of-string-1.html>

Archaeologists found the world's oldest piece of string. They are happy because the string is about 50,000 years old. The string also shows that early humans called Neanderthals were very intelligent. Neanderthals became extinct 35,000 years ago, but the string shows they understood plants and textiles. The Neanderthals may have used the string to make clothes, bags, rope, mats and other things. They were probably as intelligent as humans today.

The string is very small but it shows how people lived 50,000 years ago. A researcher said she could learn many things from the string. It had three different fibres in it. Nature does not make this naturally. The Neanderthals could make things like rope from different fibres. They also knew about plants and trees. The researcher said the Neanderthals had the intelligence, "to use different parts of the environment".

Sources: <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/oldest-string-neanderthal-181822003.html>  
<https://metro.co.uk/2020/04/13/oldest-piece-string-found-neanderthal-dwelling-12548889/>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/neanderthals-string-discovery-50000-years-old-france-scientists-abri-du-maras-a9462706.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200417-piece-of-string-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. They                           | a. used the string  |
| 2. the string is about            | b. and other things |
| 3. Neanderthals were very         | c. are happy        |
| 4. Neanderthals became extinct    | d. humans today     |
| 5. they understood plants         | e. intelligent      |
| 6. The Neanderthals may have      | f. 35,000 years ago |
| 7. make clothes, bags, rope, mats | g. and textiles     |
| 8. as intelligent as              | h. 50,000 years old |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The string is               | a. plants and trees   |
| 2. how people lived            | b. rope               |
| 3. A researcher said she could | c. of the environment |
| 4. Nature does not make        | d. 50,000 years ago   |
| 5. make things like            | e. this naturally     |
| 6. They also knew about        | f. the intelligence   |
| 7. Neanderthals had            | g. learn many things  |
| 8. use different parts         | h. very small         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200417-piece-of-string-1.html>

Archaeologists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ oldest piece of string. They are happy because the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 50,000 years old. The string also shows (3) \_\_\_\_\_ called Neanderthals were very intelligent. Neanderthals became extinct 35,000 years ago, but the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ understood plants and textiles. The Neanderthals may have used the string to make clothes, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and other things. They were probably as intelligent (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The string is very small (7) \_\_\_\_\_ how people lived 50,000 years ago. A researcher said she (8) \_\_\_\_\_ things from the string. It had three different fibres in it. Nature (9) \_\_\_\_\_ this naturally. The Neanderthals could make (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from different fibres. They also (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and trees. The researcher said the Neanderthals had the intelligence, "to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of the environment".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200417-piece-of-string-1.html>

Archeologists found the world's oldest piece of string. They are happy because the string is about 50,000 years old. The string also shows that early humans called Neanderthals were very intelligent. Neanderthals became extinct 35,000 years ago, but the string shows they understood plants and textiles. The Neanderthals may have used the string to make clothes, bags, rope, mats and other things. They were probably as intelligent as humans today. The string is very small but it shows how people lived 50,000 years ago. A researcher said she could learn many things from the string. It had three different fibres in it. Nature does not make this naturally. The Neanderthals could make things like rope from different fibres. They also knew about plants and trees. The researcher said the Neanderthals had the intelligence, "to use different parts of the environment".

# STRING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2004/200417-piece-of-string-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about string in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*50,000-year-old piece of string found – 17th April, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

