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Level 2 – 21st March 2024

Human speech is 8 times older than we thought

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-2.html>

Researchers may have found the time in history when human beings first spoke. An expert in prehistory believes that basic language started 1.6 million years ago. This is eight times earlier than scientists thought. Experts previously believed that spoken human language began 200,000 years ago. Studies show that the first human language developed in eastern or southern Africa. He said the ability to speak helped evolution. The expert said speech was, "without doubt, the key which made much of...human physical and cultural evolution possible".

The expert wrote about how human speech developed in his new book called, "The Language Puzzle". He says our brain increased in size over 1.5 million years ago. This changed the structure of our brain. An area developed that produced language. Another important change was the development of tissue that could make sounds, and therefore speech. This allowed humans to move all over the world. It meant humans could think of and plan future actions, and they could pass on knowledge. The expert said language changed the human story enormously.

Sources: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/human-language-study-origins-speaking-b2514451.html>
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/celebrity/humans-speaking-lot-longer-originally-145649872.html>
<https://sciworthy.com/how-did-humans-learn-to-speak/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. the time in history when human | a. in prehistory |
| 2. An expert | b. 200,000 years ago |
| 3. eight times earlier | c. the key |
| 4. Experts previously believed | d. cultural evolution |
| 5. spoken human language began | e. that |
| 6. language developed in eastern | f. beings first spoke |
| 7. speech was, without doubt, | g. than scientists thought |
| 8. physical and | h. or southern Africa |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. how human speech | a. of our brain |
| 2. our brain increased | b. plan future actions |
| 3. This changed the structure | c. tissue |
| 4. the development of | d. story enormously |
| 5. This allowed humans to move | e. developed |
| 6. think of and | f. on knowledge |
| 7. they could pass | g. in size |
| 8. language changed the human | h. all over the world |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-2.html>

Researchers may have (1) _____ in history when human beings first spoke. (2) _____ prehistory believes that basic language started 1.6 million years ago. This is eight (3) _____ scientists thought. Experts previously believed that spoken human language began 200,000 years ago. Studies (4) _____ first human language developed in eastern or southern Africa. He said the ability to speak helped _____ evolution. The expert said speech (5) _____, the key which made much of...human (6) _____ evolution possible".

The expert wrote about (7) _____ developed in his new book called, "The Language Puzzle". He says our brain (8) _____ over 1.5 million years ago. This changed the structure of our brain. An area developed that produced language. Another important change was the (9) _____ that could make sounds, (10) _____. This allowed humans to move all over the world. It meant humans could think of and plan future actions, and they (11) _____ knowledge. The expert said language changed (12) _____ enormously.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-2.html>

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HUMAN SPEECH SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about human speech 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) _____

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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) _____

