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Level 4 – 31st July 2023

8,000-year-old ancestor of English found

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

Linguists have made a "significant breakthrough" regarding the origin of Indo-European languages. The linguists say the origins go back more than 8,100 years. Their study may settle a 200-year-old dispute over where English came from. One school of thought says it has its roots on the northern shore of the Black Sea. A competing theory is that English originated from Anatolia (present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

Nearly half the world speaks Indo-European languages. The most commonly spoken are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish and Bengali. Each of these have over 100 million native speakers. Linguists created a databank of core vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. They concluded that their analysis suggested that the answer to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma is a hybrid of the Steppe and Anatolia theories.

Sources: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/english-sanskrit-common-ancestor-language-b2383469.html>
<https://english.elpais.com/science-tech/2023-07-28/indo-european-dialects-dispersed-across-eurasia-in-successive-waves-over-the-course-of-8000-years.html>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2385057-origin-of-indo-european-languages-traced-back-to-8000-years-ago/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. made a significant | a. dispute |
| 2. the origin of | b. day Turkey |
| 3. the origins go back | c. breakthrough |
| 4. settle a 200-year-old | d. came from |
| 5. where English | e. the northern shore |
| 6. One school | f. Indo-European languages |
| 7. it has its roots on | g. of thought |
| 8. present- | h. more than 8,100 years |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Nearly half | a. native speakers |
| 2. The most commonly | b. enigma |
| 3. each of | c. that |
| 4. over 100 million | d. and Anatolia theories |
| 5. a databank of core | e. these |
| 6. They concluded | f. spoken |
| 7. the 200-year-old Indo-European | g. vocabulary |
| 8. a hybrid of the Steppe | h. the world |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

Linguists have (1) _____ breakthrough" regarding the origin of Indo-European languages. The linguists (2) _____ go back more than 8,100 years. Their study may settle a 200-year-old (3) _____ English came from. One school of thought says it (4) _____ on the northern shore of the Black Sea. (5) _____ is that English originated from Anatolia ((6) _____) 9,000 years ago.

Nearly (7) _____ speaks Indo-European languages. The most (8) _____ English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish and Bengali. Each of these have over 100 (9) _____.

Linguists created a databank (10) _____ from 161 Indo-European languages. They concluded (11) _____ suggested that the answer to the 200-year-old Indo-European (12) _____ hybrid of the Steppe and Anatolia theories.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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LANGUAGES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Languages 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

Write about **Languages** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
