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## Level 0

### Baby talk is a world language

15th October, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-0.html>

Mothers across the world speak to babies in the same way. Researchers said "motherese" is a world language. The cute noises and coo-oo mothers say are very complex. Motherese helps babies learn language. Baby talk is more important than we thought. A researcher said baby talk is not embarrassing.

The researchers recorded 24 different mothers speaking 10 languages. The mothers played with and read to their babies. Their babies were between seven months and one year. The mothers' voices changed in the same way, in any language. The study said fathers probably also speak to their babies in a similar way.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/oct/12/coo-oo-why-baby-talk-is-more-sophisticated-than-you-might-think>  
<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20171013/Timbre-shifting-is-a-new-attribute-of-e2809cbaby-talk-e2809d-found-in-all-languages-study-reveals.aspx>  
<http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/the-science-of-baby-talk-motherese-is-a-universal-language-study-confirms-1.3631028>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. across the       | a. than we thought  |
| 2. in the           | b. a world language |
| 3. "motherese" is   | c. babies           |
| 4. cute noises      | d. embarrassing     |
| 5. Motherese helps  | e. same way         |
| 6. learn            | f. and coo-oo-coos  |
| 7. more important   | g. world            |
| 8. baby talk is not | h. language         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. researchers recorded 24 | a. speak to their babies |
| 2. speaking 10             | b. and one year          |
| 3. read to their           | c. different mothers     |
| 4. between seven months    | d. way                   |
| 5. The mothers' voices     | e. language              |
| 6. in any                  | f. languages             |
| 7. fathers probably also   | g. babies                |
| 8. in a similar            | h. changed               |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-0.html>

Mothers across (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to babies in the same way. Researchers said "motherese" is a world language. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and coo-oo mothers say (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Motherese helps babies (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Baby talk is more (5) \_\_\_\_\_ thought. A researcher said baby talk is (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The researchers (7) \_\_\_\_\_ different mothers speaking 10 languages. The mothers (8) \_\_\_\_\_ read (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Their babies were between seven months (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The mothers' voices changed in the same way, (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The study said fathers probably also speak to their babies (12) \_\_\_\_\_ way.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-0.html>

Mothers across the world speak to babies in the same way. Researchers said "motherese" is a world language. The cute noises and coo-choo sounds others say are very complex. Motherese helps babies learn language. Baby talk is more important than we thought. As researchers said, baby talk is not embarrassing. The researchers recorded 24 different mothers speaking 10 languages. The mothers played with and read to their babies. Their babies were between seven months and one year. The mothers' voices changed in the same way, in any language. The study said fathers probably also speak to their babies in a similar way.

# BABY TALK SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about baby talk 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Baby talk is a world language – 15th October, 2017*  
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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) \_\_\_\_\_

