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Level 2

Baby talk is a world language

15th October, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-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/1710/171015-baby-talk-2.html>

A study said mothers across the world speak to their babies in the same way. Researchers from the Baby Lab at Princeton University said "motherese" is a universal language. It is not just cute noises and coo-coos. The words and sounds mothers say to babies are quite complex. They are a special form of communication. Mothers use them in the same way across the world. They help the language development in babies. Dr Elise Piazza, co-author of the research, said baby talk is more important than we thought. She said: "It is not something to be embarrassed about at all."

The researchers recorded 24 different mothers talking to babies aged between seven months and one year. The mothers spoke 10 different languages, including English, Mandarin and Russian. Dr Piazza said: "We basically brought mothers into the lab and had them play with and read to their own babies, just like they would at home." She said mothers changed the quality of their voices when speaking to babies, in any language. The study didn't look at fathers' talk, but Piazza said that it is likely fathers would also speak to their babies in a similar way across the world.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/oct/12/coo-coo-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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. mothers across | a. development |
| 2. It is not just cute | b. embarrassed about |
| 3. babies are quite | c. the world |
| 4. in the same | d. complex |
| 5. language | e. we thought |
| 6. co-author | f. way |
| 7. more important than | g. of the research |
| 8. something to be | h. noises |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The researchers recorded 24 | a. languages |
| 2. babies aged between seven months | b. fathers' talk |
| 3. 10 different | c. to their own babies |
| 4. brought mothers into the | d. in any language |
| 5. play with and read | e. different mothers |
| 6. changed the quality | f. lab |
| 7. speaking to babies, | g. of their voices |
| 8. The study didn't look at | h. and one year |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-2.html>

A study said mothers across the world (1) _____ babies in (2) _____. Researchers from the Baby Lab at Princeton University said "motherese" is a universal language. It is not (3) _____ and coo-chy-coos. The words and sounds mothers say to babies are quite complex. They are a (4) _____ communication. Mothers use them in the same way across the world. They (5) _____ development in babies. Dr Elise Piazza, co-author of the research, said baby talk is more important than we thought. She said: "It is not something to be embarrassed (6) _____."

The researchers (7) _____ mothers talking to babies aged between seven months and one year. The mothers (8) _____ languages, including English, Mandarin and Russian. Dr Piazza said: "We (9) _____ mothers into the lab and had them play with and read to their own babies, just like they would at home." She said mothers (10) _____ of their voices when speaking to babies, in any language. The study (11) _____ fathers' talk, but Piazza said that it is likely fathers would also speak to their babies (12) _____ way across the world.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-2.html>

A study said mothers across the world speak to their babies in the same way. Researchers from the Baby Lab at Princeton University said "motherese" is a universal language. It is not just cute noises and cooing. The words and sounds mothers say to babies are quite complex. They are a special form of communication. Mothers use them in the same way across the world. They help the language development in babies. Dr Elise Piazza, co-author of the research, said baby talk is more important than we thought. She said: "It is not something to be embarrassed about at all." The researchers recorded 24 different mothers talking to babies aged between seven months and one year. The mothers spoke 10 different languages, including English, Mandarin and Russian. Dr Piazza said: "We basically brought mothers into the lab and had them play with and read to their own babies, just like they would at home." She said mothers changed the quality of their voices when speaking to babies, in any language. The study didn't look at fathers' talk, but Piazza said that it is likely fathers would also speak to their babies in a similar way across the world.

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) _____

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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) _____

