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## Level 4

### Best to learn a new language before age of 10

4th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-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/1805/180504-language-learning-4.html>

A study suggests that it is best to start learning a language before the age of ten. Researchers said the ability to learn grammar well is present up until the age of 18. This is the limit of the "critical period" when language-learning ability starts to decline. A researcher said children quite easily become bilingual because, "that's when you're best at learning languages". He said it's difficult to become truly bilingual later in life.

The research was based on 670,000 online grammar quizzes. The tests had grammar rules designed to confuse non-native speakers. These helped to measure the language ability of people who started learning a language at different ages. One researcher suggested older people might be too busy to learn a language because they leave home, go to university or start work. All of these affect language-learning ability.

Sources: [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2018/05/critical\\_period\\_for\\_learning\\_l.html?cmp=RSS-FEED](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2018/05/critical_period_for_learning_l.html?cmp=RSS-FEED)  
<http://www.euronews.com/2018/05/01/-critical-period-for-learning-new-language-says-study>  
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6190032/kids-aged-ten-can-learn-languages-fluently/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. start learning a language        | a. become bilingual      |
| 2. the ability to learn grammar     | b. bilingual             |
| 3. This is the limit of the         | c. before the age of ten |
| 4. language-learning ability starts | d. life                  |
| 5. children quite easily            | e. critical period       |
| 6. that's when you're best          | f. to decline            |
| 7. it's difficult to become truly   | g. well                  |
| 8. later in                         | h. at learning languages |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. based on 670,000 online       | a. too busy         |
| 2. The tests had grammar         | b. confuse          |
| 3. designed to                   | c. ages             |
| 4. non-                          | d. rules            |
| 5. at different                  | e. or start work    |
| 6. older people might be         | f. native speakers  |
| 7. go to university              | g. learning ability |
| 8. All of these affect language- | h. grammar quizzes  |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-4.html>

A study suggests (1) \_\_\_\_\_ best to start learning a language before (2) \_\_\_\_\_ ten. Researchers said the ability to learn grammar well is present up until the age of 18. This is (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the "critical period" when language-learning ability (4) \_\_\_\_\_. A researcher said children quite easily become bilingual because, "that's when (5) \_\_\_\_\_ learning languages". He said it's difficult to become (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in life.

The research (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 670,000 online grammar quizzes.

The tests had grammar rules designed (8) \_\_\_\_\_ speakers.

These helped (9) \_\_\_\_\_ language ability of people who

started learning a language (10) \_\_\_\_\_. One researcher

suggested older people might be too (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a language

because they leave home, go to university or start work. All

(12) \_\_\_\_\_ language-learning ability.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-4.html>

A study suggests that it is best to start learning a language before the age of ten. Researchers said the ability to learn grammar well is present up until the age of 18. This is the limit of the "critical period" when language-learning ability starts to decline. Researchers said children quite easily become bilingual because, "that's when you're best at learning languages". It's difficult to become truly bilingual later in life. The research was based on 670,000 online grammar quizzes. The tests had grammar rules designed to confuse non-native speakers. These helped to measure the language ability of people who started learning a language at different ages. One researcher suggested older people might be too busy to learn a language because they leave home, go to university or start work. All of these affect language-learning ability.

# LANGUAGE LEARNING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about language learning 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) \_\_\_\_\_

