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**Level 4 – 29th May, 2020**

## **Cuckoo completes epic 12,000km migration**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-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/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

A cuckoo finished one of the longest migrations by a bird. The cuckoo left its winter home in Zambia in March and flew to Mongolia. Scientists named the bird Onon, after a Mongolian river. They micro-chipped five cuckoos last summer to track their migration and monitored the birds across the Indian Ocean and Asia. Onon was the quickest to make the journey from Mongolia to Zambia and back. The scientists called it "a mammoth journey".

The tagging was a joint venture between Mongolian, British and Chinese scientists. They set up a blog called the Mongolia Cuckoo Project for bird lovers to see the birds' progress. Onon arrived home on May the 27th after flying 26,000km. The blog said it was: "Remarkable navigation and endurance." It added: "Onon has no time to waste as he needs to set up his territory, defend it from competing males and mate with as many females as possible."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52815286>  
<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/25821/20200526/satellite-follows-mammoth-journey-five-cuckoos-epic.htm>  
<https://birdingbeijing.com/the-mongolia-cuckoo-project/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. one of the longest         | a. cuckoos last summer |
| 2. The cuckoo left its winter | b. make the journey    |
| 3. Scientists named           | c. home                |
| 4. They micro-chipped five    | d. "a mammoth journey" |
| 5. track their                | e. the bird Onon       |
| 6. monitored                  | f. migration           |
| 7. the quickest to            | g. migrations          |
| 8. The scientists called it   | h. the birds           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. The tagging was a joint | a. up a blog       |
| 2. They set                | b. competing males |
| 3. bird                    | c. to waste        |
| 4. Remarkable navigation   | d. as possible     |
| 5. Onon has no time        | e. venture         |
| 6. set up his              | f. lovers          |
| 7. defend it from          | g. territory       |
| 8. with as many females    | h. and endurance   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

A cuckoo (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the longest migrations by a bird. The cuckoo left (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in Zambia in March and flew to Mongolia. Scientists (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Onon, after a Mongolian river. They micro-chipped five cuckoos last summer to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and monitored the birds across the Indian Ocean and Asia. Onon was the quickest to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from Mongolia to Zambia and back. The (6) \_\_\_\_\_ "a mammoth journey".

The tagging was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ between Mongolian, British and Chinese scientists. They (8) \_\_\_\_\_ blog called the Mongolia Cuckoo Project for bird lovers to see (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Onon arrived home on May the 27th after flying 26,000km. The blog said it was: "Remarkable (10) \_\_\_\_\_." It added: "Onon has no time to waste as he needs to set (11) \_\_\_\_\_, defend it from competing males and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ many females as possible."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

A cuckoo finished one of the longest migrations by a bird. The cuckoo left its winter home in Zambia in March and flew to Mongolia. Scientists named the bird Onon, after a Mongolian river. They micro-chipped five cuckoos last summer to track their migration and monitored the birds across the Indian Ocean and Asia. Onon was the quickest to make the journey from Mongolia to Zambia and back. The scientists called it "a mammoth journey". The tagging was a joint venture between Mongolian, British and Chinese scientists. They set up a blog called the Mongolia Cuckoo Project for bird lovers to see the birds' progress. Onon arrived home on May the 27th after flying 26,000 km. The blog said it was: "Remarkable navigation and endurance." It added: "Onon has not time to waste as he needs to set up his territory, defend it from competing males and mate with as many females as possible."

# CUCKOOS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cuckoos 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Cuckoo completes epic 12,000km migration – 29th May, 2020*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

Write about **cuckoos** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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