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# **Level 1** – 21st March 2024 Human speech is 8 times older than we thought

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

https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-1.html

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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#### THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-1.html

Researchers may have found the time in history when humans first spoke. An expert believes that language started 1.6 million years ago. This is eight times earlier than we thought. Experts thought spoken human language began 200,000 years ago. Studies show that the first human language developed in Africa. The expert said speech was, "without doubt, the key which made much of...human physical and cultural evolution possible".

The expert wrote about human speech in a book called, "The Language Puzzle". He says our brain got bigger 1.5 million years ago. An area for language developed in our brain. Another important development was of tissue that could make sounds, and therefore speech. Speech allowed humans to move all over the world. It meant humans could think of and plan future actions, and they could pass on knowledge.

Sources: https://www.**independent.co.uk**/news/science/archaeology/human-language-study-originsspeaking-b2514451.html https://uk.news.**yahoo.com**/celebrity/humans-speaking-lot-longer-originally-145649872.html https://**sciworthy.com**/how-did-humans-learn-to-speak/

# **PHRASE MATCHING**

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-1.html

#### **PARAGRAPH ONE:**

- 1. the time in history when
- 2. An expert believes
- 3. language started 1.6 million
- 4. eight times earlier
- 5. human language began
- 6. the first human language
- 7. speech was, without
- 8. physical and

#### **PARAGRAPH TWO:**

8. they could pass

1. The expert wrote b. actions 2. our brain got 3. An area for language developed in 4. Another important 5. Speech allowed humans to move e. our brain 6. It meant humans 7. plan future g. bigger

- a. doubt, the key
- b. 200,000 years ago
- c. that
- d. cultural evolution
- e. years ago
- humans first spoke f.
- g. developed in Africa
- h. than we thought
- a. all over the world
- c. about human speech
- d. on knowledge
- f. development
- h. could think

#### LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-1.html

Researchers may have found the (1) when						
humans first spoke. An (2) language						
started 1.6 million years ago. This is eight times						
(3) thought. Experts thought spoken						
human language began 200,000 years ago.						
(4) the first human language developed in						
Africa. The expert said speech was, "(5)						
key which made (6) physical and cultural						
evolution possible".						
The (7) human speech in a book called,						
"The Language Puzzle". He says our (8)						
1.5 million years ago. (9) language						
developed in our brain. Another important development						
(10) that could make sounds, and						
therefore speech. Speech allowed humans to						

(11) \_\_\_\_\_\_ the world. It meant humans could think of and plan future actions, and they (12) \_\_\_\_\_\_ knowledge.

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# PUT A SLASH ( / )WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-1.html

Researchersmayhavefoundthetimeinhistorywhenhumansfirstspoke .Anexpertbelievesthatlanguagestarted1.6millionyearsago.Thisiseig httimesearlierthanwethought.Expertsthoughtspokenhumanlangua gebegan200,000yearsago.Studiesshowthatthefirsthumanlanguage developedinAfrica.Theexpertsaidspeechwas,"withoutdoubt,thekey whichmademuchof...humanphysicalandculturalevolutionpossible".T heexpertwroteabouthumanspeechinabookcalled,"TheLanguagePuz zle".Hesaysourbraingotbigger1.5millionyearsago.Anareaforlangua gedevelopedinourbrain. Another important development was of tissue thatcouldmakesounds, and therefore speech. Speechallowed humans tomoveallovertheworld.Itmeanthumanscouldthinkofandplanfuture actions, and they could passon knowledge.

## **HUMAN SPEECH SURVEY**

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-4.html

Write five GOOD questions about human speech 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)

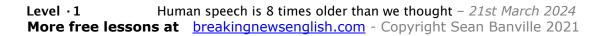
Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)		
b)	 	
c)		
d)		
e)		
f)	 	

## WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2403/240321-human-speech-1.html

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



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