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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 6 – 31st July 2023

8,000-year-old ancestor of English found

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Contents

Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

Evolutionary linguists believe they have made a "significant breakthrough" regarding the origin of Indo-European languages, including English and Sanskrit. The linguists say an ancient predecessor may have been spoken more than 8,100 years ago. The researchers are from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. Their study may resolve a 200-year-old dispute over where the ancestor of English came from. One school of thought posits English has its roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe on the northern shore of the Black Sea 6,000 years ago. A competing theory is that English originated from Anatolia (much of present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

Indo-European languages are spoken by nearly half of the world's population. The most commonly-spoken members of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese and Punjabi. Each of these have over 100 million native speakers. More than 80 language specialists created a huge databank of core vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study included 52 ancient and historical languages. Study co-author and Associate-Professor Russell Gray said: "Ancient DNA and [evolutionary language analysis] combine to suggest that the resolution to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma lies in a hybrid of the [Steppe and Anatolia] hypotheses."

WARM-UPS

1. LANGUAGES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Languages. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

linguist / breakthrough / language / predecessor / dispute / ancestor / roots / theory / population / family / native speakers / specialists / vocabulary / ancient / enigma

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. LINGUA FRANCA: Students A **strongly** believe the world should have just one language; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. STUDYING LANGUAGES: What's the best way to learn a language? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Method	**Why It's Useful**
Vocabulary		
Speaking		
Reading		
Writing		
Listening		
Spelling		

5. LINGUIST: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "linguist". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. LANGUAGE: Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful languages at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- English
- Chinese
- Arabic
- Spanish

- French
- Japanese
- Hindi
- Bengali

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	evolutionary	a.	Put forward as fact or as a basis for argument.
2.	linguist	b.	a sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development.
3.	breakthrough	c.	A thing that has been followed or replaced by another.
4.	ancient	d.	Relating to or denoting the process by which different kinds of things are believed to have developed from earlier forms.
5.	predecessor	e.	Settle or find a solution to a problem or contentious matter.
6.	resolve	f.	A person who studies language and its structure.
7.	posit	g.	Very, very, very old.

Paragraph 2

8.	native	h.	One of two or more people to have jointly written a book, article, research paper, etc.
9.	databank	i.	A large folder of computer data on a particular topic.
10.	core	j.	Proposed explanations made on the basis of limited evidence as a starting point for further investigation.
11.	co-author	k.	Originally belonging to a place.
12.	enigma	l.	A person or thing that is mysterious or difficult to understand.
13.	hybrid	m.	The part of something that is central to its existence or character.
14.	hypotheses	n.	A thing made by combining two different elements.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1.   Revolutionary lingerers have made an important discovery.   **T / F**
2.   English belongs to the same family of languages as Sanskrit.   **T / F**
3.   There has been a two-century debate over the origins of English.   **T / F**
4.   One theory is that English originated in what used to be Turkey.   **T / F**
5.   More than half of people in the world speak Indo-European languages.   **T / F**
6.   There are fewer than 100 million native Bengali speakers in the world.   **T / F**
7.   Linguists analyzed vocabulary from 80 ancient languages.   **T / F**
8.   Linguists believe English started only north of the Black Sea.   **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**breakthrough**	a.	experts
2.	**resolve**	b.	postulates
3.	**posits**	c.	emanated
4.	**theory**	d.	mix
5.	**originated**	e.	advance
6.	**specialists**	f.	basic
7.	**core**	g.	mystery
8.	**ancient**	h.	settle
9.	**enigma**	i.	very, very old
10.	**hybrid**	j.	hypothesis

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1.	linguists believe they have made a significant	a.	200-year-old dispute
2.	an ancient	b.	enigma
3.	resolve a	c.	day Turkey
4.	on the northern shore	d.	native speakers
5.	much of present-	e.	predecessor
6.	The most commonly-	f.	breakthrough
7.	these have over 100 million	g.	vocabulary
8.	a huge databank of core	h.	hybrid
9.	the 200-year-old Indo-European	i.	of the Black Sea
10.	lies in a	j.	spoken members

GAP FILL

Evolutionary (1) _____ believe they have made a "significant breakthrough" regarding the (2) _____ of Indo-European languages, including English and Sanskrit. The linguists say an (3) _____ predecessor may have been spoken more than 8,100 years ago. The researchers are from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. Their study may (4) _____ a 200-year-old (5) _____ over where the ancestor of English came from. One school of thought (6) _____ English has its roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe on the northern (7) _____ of the Black Sea 6,000 years ago. A competing (8) _____ is that English originated from Anatolia (much of present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

origin

shore

resolve

posits

linguists

theory

ancient

dispute

Indo-European languages are spoken by nearly (9) _____ of the world's population. The most (10) _____ -spoken members of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese and Punjabi. Each of these have over 100 million (11) _____ speakers. More than 80 language specialists created a huge databank of (12) _____ vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study included 52 ancient and (13) _____ languages. Study co-author and Associate-Professor Russell Gray said: "Ancient DNA and [evolutionary language analysis] combine to suggest that the (14) _____ to the 200-year-old Indo-European (15) _____ lies in a hybrid of the [Steppe and Anatolia] (16) _____."

resolution

native

half

hypotheses

core

enigma

historical

commonly

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

1) Evolutionary linguists believe they have made _____
   a. a significance breakthrough
   b. a significantly breakthrough
   c. a significant breakthrough
   d. a signify can't breakthrough

2) The linguists say an ancient _____
   a. predecessors may have
   b. precursor may have
   c. processor may have
   d. precedent may have

3) Their study may resolve a 200-year-old dispute over _____
   a. were the ancestor
   b. there the ancestor
   c. why the ancestor
   d. where the ancestor

4) of thought posits English has its roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe on _____
   a. the northern shore
   b. the northern sure
   c. the northern Shaw
   d. the northern snore

5) A competing theory is that English _____
   a. originated from Anatolia
   b. originated for Anatolia
   c. originated frame Anatolia
   d. originated of Anatolia

6) The most commonly-spoken members of this _____
   a. familiar are English
   b. familial are English
   c. family are English
   d. famine are English

7) Each of these have over 100 _____
   a. million nativity speakers
   b. million mature speakers
   c. million mastiff speakers
   d. million native speakers

8) More than 80 language specialists created a huge databank _____
   a. of corps vocabulary
   b. of core vocabulary
   c. of caw vocabulary
   d. of cor vocabulary

9) Ancient DNA and [evolutionary language analysis] combine to suggest _____
   a. that the revolution
   b. that the resolution
   c. that the revolting
   d. that the rendition

10) the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma lies in a hybrid of the _____
   a. [Steppe and Anatolia] hypothesis
   b. [Steppe and Anatolia] hippo theses
   c. [Steppe and Anatolia] hippo thesis
   d. [Steppe and Anatolia] hypo thesis

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

(1) _____ they have made a "significant breakthrough" (2) _____ of Indo-European languages, including English and Sanskrit. The linguists say (3) _____ may have been spoken more than 8,100 years ago. The researchers are from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. Their study may resolve a 200-year-old (4) _____ the ancestor of English came from. One school of thought posits English has its roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe on the (5) _____ the Black Sea 6,000 years ago. A competing theory is that English originated from Anatolia (much of (6) _____) 9,000 years ago.

Indo-European languages are spoken (7) _____ of the world's population. The most (8) _____ of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese and Punjabi. Each of these have over 100 (9) _____. More than 80 language specialists created a huge (10) _____ vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study included 52 ancient and historical languages. Study co-author and Associate-Professor Russell Gray said: "Ancient DNA and [(11) _____] combine to suggest that the resolution to the 200-year-old Indo-European (12) _____ a hybrid of the [Steppe and Anatolia] hypotheses."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who does the article say made a breakthrough?

2. When might an ancient predecessor have been spoken?

3. How old is the dispute regarding the origins of English?

4. Where is the Pontic-Caspian Steppe?

5. Where does the article say Anatolia is?

6. How many people speak Indo-European languages?

7. How many people speak Punjabi?

8. How many ancient and historical languages did linguists look at?

9. Who is Russell Gray?

10. What did Mr Gray say the Indo-European enigma lie in?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1) Who does the article say made a breakthrough?
a) Indians and Europeans
b) revolutionary legumins
c) evolutionary linguists
d) revolutionary linguists

2) When might an ancient predecessor have been spoken?
a) more than 8,100 years ago
b) exactly 8,100 years ago
c) less than 8,100 years ago
d) around 8,100 years ago

3) How old is the dispute regarding the origins of English?
a) 300 years old
b) 200 years old
c) 100 years old
d) 400 years old

4) Where is the Pontic-Caspian Steppe?
a) Azerbaijan
b) in Russia
c) Armenia
d) on the northern shore of the Black Sea

5) Where does the article say Anatolia is?
a) around the Mediterranean
b) the Caucuses
c) present-day Turkey
d) Russia

6) How many people speak Indo-European languages?
a) three-quarters of the world
b) nearly half of the world's population
c) three-fifths of people worldwide
d) two-thirds of us

7) How many people speak Punjabi?
a) exactly 100 million
b) fewer than 100 million
c) around 100 million
d) over 100 million

8) How many ancient and historical languages did linguists look at?
a) 51
b) 52
c) 53
d) 54

9) Who is Russell Gray?
a) a journalist
b) the study's co-author
c) a lexicographer
d) a word smith

10) What did Mr Gray say the Indo-European enigma lie in?
a) a hybrid
b) a mess
c) ruins
d) a mystery

ROLE PLAY

Role A – English

You think English is the most useful language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their language isn't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Chinese, Arabic or Spanish.

Role B – Chinese

You think Chinese is the most useful language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their language isn't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): English, Arabic or Spanish.

Role C – Arabic

You think Arabic is the most useful language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their language isn't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Chinese, English or Spanish.

Role D – Spanish

You think Spanish is the most useful language. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their language isn't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): Chinese, Arabic or English.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'English' and 'language'.

English	language

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• believe	• spoken
• say	• family
• resolve	• over
• school	• 52
• shore	• DNA
• theory	• lies

LANGUAGES SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about Languages 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.

LANGUAGES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?

2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'English'?

3. How important is English?

4. What are your favourite languages?

5. What do you know about the evolution and history of your language?

6. How easy or difficult is your language to learn?

7. How easy or difficult is English to learn?

8. Should we all be learning Chinese now?

9. What do you like and dislike about English?

10. What are the best ways to learn languages?

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LANGUAGES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?

12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'language'?

13. What do you think about what you read?

14. How did English get to be so important in the world?

15. Would the world be more peaceful if we all spoke the same language?

16. How does having thousands of languages make the world better?

17. What new languages would you like to learn?

18. Will AI mean we won't need to learn languages in the future?

19. How many languages should people learn?

20. What questions would you like to ask the linguists?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

Evolutionary linguists believe they have made a "(1) _____ breakthrough" regarding the origin of Indo-European languages, including English and Sanskrit. The linguists say an (2) _____ predecessor may have been spoken more than 8,100 years ago. The researchers are from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. Their study may (3) _____ a 200-year-old dispute over where the ancestor of English came from. One (4) _____ of thought posits English has its roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe on the northern (5) _____ of the Black Sea 6,000 years ago. A competing theory is that English originated from Anatolia ((6) _____ of present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

Indo-European languages are spoken by nearly half of the world's population. The most (7) _____-spoken members of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese and Punjabi. Each of these have over 100 million (8) _____ speakers. More than 80 language specialists created a huge databank of (9) _____ vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study (10) _____ 52 ancient and historical languages. Study co-author and Associate-Professor Russell Gray said: "Ancient DNA and [evolutionary language analysis] combine to suggest (11) _____ the resolution to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma (12) _____ in a hybrid of the [Steppe and Anatolia] hypotheses."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

1.	(a)	insignificant	(b)	significant	(c)	significantly	(d)	significance
2.	(a)	anxious	(b)	ancient	(c)	ardent	(d)	anchored
3.	(a)	revolve	(b)	resend	(c)	resile	(d)	resolve
4.	(a)	university	(b)	school	(c)	institute	(d)	college
5.	(a)	Shaw	(b)	share	(c)	sure	(d)	shore
6.	(a)	many	(b)	more	(c)	much	(d)	major
7.	(a)	commonly	(b)	commoner	(c)	commons	(d)	common
8.	(a)	nativity	(b)	mature	(c)	native	(d)	natural
9.	(a)	cower	(b)	craw	(c)	claw	(d)	core
10.	(a)	included	(b)	concluded	(c)	excluded	(d)	precluded
11.	(a)	that	(b)	what	(c)	which	(d)	thus
12.	(a)	lies	(b)	allays	(c)	lays	(d)	lees

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. ytaiourevnlo linguists

2. an nacniet predecessor

3. a 200-year-old isutepd

4. where the tenscoar of English came from

5. One school of thought itsspo English has…

6. A competing etoyhr

Paragraph 2

7. More than 80 language etspiaslsic

8. created a huge aatbakdn of core vocabulary

9. combine to suggest that the sooueltirn

10. the 200-year-old Indo-European agenmi

11. lies in a rbydih

12. the Steppe and Anatolia pteohsyhes

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

(   )   of Indo-European languages, including English and Sanskrit. The linguists say an

(   )   roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe on the northern shore of the Black Sea 6,000 years ago. A competing

(**1**)   Evolutionary linguists believe they have made a "significant breakthrough" regarding the origin

(   )   theory is that English originated from Anatolia (much of present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

(   )   the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. Their study may resolve a 200-year-old

(   )   dispute over where the ancestor of English came from. One school of thought posits English has its

(   )   Indo-European languages are spoken by nearly half of the world's population. The most commonly-

(   )   and historical languages. Study co-author and Associate-Professor Russell Gray said: "Ancient

(   )   ancient predecessor may have been spoken more than 8,100 years ago. The researchers are from

(   )   spoken members of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese

(   )   databank of core vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study included 52 ancient

(   )   DNA and [evolutionary language analysis] combine to suggest that the resolution

(   )   and Punjabi. Each of these have over 100 million native speakers. More than 80 language specialists created a huge

(   )   to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma lies in a hybrid of the [Steppe and Anatolia] hypotheses."

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. believe   they   significant   have   a   breakthrough   .   made   Linguists

2. been   predecessor   may   have   An   ancient   spoken   .

3. 200-year-old   study   may   resolve   Their   dispute   .   a

4. of   Where   ancestor   from   .   came   the   English

5. theory   competing   originated   is   English   A   Anatolia   .   from

6. the   population   .   by   of   world's   spoken   Languages   half

7. members   this   commonly-spoken   most   The   of   family   .

8. language   a   huge   created   Over   80   databank   .   specialists

9. included   and   ancient   historical   The   languages   .   52   study

10. enigma   .   The   to   Indo-European   resolution   the   200-year-old

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

Evolutionary *linguists / linguistics* believe they have made a "significant breakthrough" regarding the *originality / origin* of Indo-European languages, including English and Sanskrit. The linguists say an ancient *professor / predecessor* may have been *talked / spoken* more than 8,100 years ago. The researchers are *from / of* the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. Their study may *resolve / revolve* a 200-year-old dispute *surround / over* where the ancestor of English came from. One school of thought *posts / posits* English has its roots in the Pontic-Caspian Steppe *on / in* the northern shore of the Black Sea 6,000 years ago. A competing theory is that English originated from Anatolia (*much / many* of present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

Indo-European languages are spoken *by / at* nearly half of the world's population. The most commonly-spoken *members / people* of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish, Bengali, French, Russian, Portuguese and Punjabi. Each of *them / these* have over 100 million *native / nativity* speakers. More than 80 language specialists created a *hued / huge* databank of *core / caw* vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study included 52 ancient and *hysterical / historical* languages. Study co-author and Associate-Professor Russell Gray said: "Ancient *NDA / DNA* and [evolutionary language analysis] combine to suggest *what / that* the resolution to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma *lies / lays* in a hybrid of the [Steppe and Anatolia] hypotheses."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

_v_l_t__n_ry   l_ng__sts   b_l__v_   th_y   h_v_   m_d_   _
"s_gn_f_c_nt   br__kthr__gh"   r_g_rd_ng   th_   _r_g_n   _f
_nd_-__r_p__n   l_ng__g_s,   _ncl_d_ng   _ngl_sh   _nd
S_nskr_t.   Th_   l_ng__sts   s_y   _n   _nc__nt   pr_d_c_ss_r
m_y   h_v_   b__n   sp_k_n   m_r_   th_n   8,100   y__rs   _g_.
Th_   r_s__rch_rs   _r_   fr_m   th_   M_x   Pl_nck   _nst_t_t_   f_r
_v_l_t__n_ry   _nthr_p_l_gy   _n   G_rm_ny.   Th__r   st_dy
m_y   r_s_lv_   _   200-y__r-_ld   d_sp_t_   _v_r   wh_r_   th_
_nc_st_r   _f   _ngl_sh   c_m_   fr_m.   _n_   sch__l   _f   th__ght
p_s_ts   _ngl_sh   h_s   _ts   r__ts   _n   th_   P_nt_c-C_sp__n
St_pp_   _n   th_   n_rth_rn   sh_r_   _f   th_   Bl_ck   S__   6,000
y__rs   _g_.   _   c_mp_t_ng   th__ry   _s   th_t   _ngl_sh
_r_g_n_t_d   fr_m   _n_t_l__   (m_ch   _f   pr_s_nt-d_y   T_rk_y)
9,000   y__rs   _g_.

_nd_-__r_p__n   l_ng__g_s   _r_   sp_k_n   by   n__rly   h_lf   _f
th_   w_rld's   p_p_l_t__n.   Th_   m_st   c_mm_nly-sp_k_n
m_mb_rs   _f   th_s   f_m_ly   _r_   _ngl_sh,   H_nd_,   _rd_,
Sp_n_sh,   B_ng_l_,   Fr_nch,   R_ss__n,   P_rt_g__s_   _nd
P_nj_b_.   __ch   _f   th_s_   h_v_   _v_r   100   m_ll__n   n_t_v_
sp__k_rs.   M_r_   th_n   80   l_ng__g_   sp_c__l_sts   cr__t_d   _
h_g_   d_t_b_nk   _f   c_r_   v_c_b_l_ry   fr_m   161   _nd_-
__r_p__n   l_ng__g_s.   Th_   st_dy   _ncl_d_d   52   _nc__nt
_nd   h_st_r_c_l   l_ng__g_s.   St_dy   c_-__th_r   _nd
_ss_c__t_-Pr_f_ss_r   R_ss_ll   Gr_y   s__d: "_nc__nt   DN_
_nd   [_v_l_t__n_ry   l_ng__g_   _n_lys_s]   c_mb_n_   t_
s_gg_st   th_t   th_   r_s_l_t__n   t_   th_   200-y__r-_ld   _nd_-
__r_p__n   _n_gm_   l__s   _n   _   hybr_d   _f   th_   St_pp_]   _nd
_n_t_l__   hyp_th_s_s."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

evolutionary linguists believe they have made a significant breakthrough regarding the origin of indoeuropean languages including english and sanskrit the linguists say an ancient predecessor may have been spoken more than 8100 years ago the researchers are from the max planck institute for evolutionary anthropology in germany their study may resolve a 200yearold dispute over where the ancestor of english came from one school of thought posits english has its roots in the ponticcaspian steppe on the northern shore of the black sea 6000 years ago a competing theory is that english originated from anatolia much of presentday turkey 9000 years ago

indoeuropean languages are spoken by nearly half of the worlds population the most commonlyspoken members of this family are english hindi urdu spanish bengali french russian portuguese and punjabi each of these have over 100 million native speakers more than 80 language specialists created a huge databank of core vocabulary from 161 indoeuropean languages the study included 52 ancient and historical languages study coauthor and associateprofessor russell gray said ancient dna and evolutionary language analysis combine to suggest that the resolution to the 200yearold indoeuropean enigma lies in a hybrid of the steppe and anatolia hypotheses

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Evolutionarylinguistsbelievetheyhavemadea"significantbreakthrough"regardingtheoriginofIndo-Europeanlanguages,includingEnglishandSanskrit.Thelinguistssayanancientpredecessormayhavebeenspokenmorethan8,100yearsago.TheresearchersarefromtheMaxPlanckInstituteforEvolutionaryAnthropologyinGermany.Theirstudymayresolvea200-year-olddisputeoverwheretheancestorofEnglishcamefrom.OneschoolofthoughtpositsEnglishhasitsrootsinthePontic-CaspianSteppeonthenorthernshoreoftheBlackSea6,000yearsago.AcompetingtheoryisthatEnglishoriginatedfromAnatolia(muchofpresent-dayTurkey)9,000yearsago.Indo-Europeanlanguagesarespokenbynearlyhalfoftheworld'spopulation.Themostcommonly-spokenmembersofthisfamilyareEnglish,Hindi,Urdu,Spanish,Bengali,French,Russian,PortugueseandPunjabi.Eachofthesehaveover100millionnativespeakers.Morethan80languagespecialistscreatedahugedatabankofcorevocabularyfrom161Indo-Europeanlanguages.Thestudyincluded52ancientandhistoricallanguages.Studyco-authorandAssociateProfessorRussellGraysaid:"AncientDNAand[evolutionarylanguageanalysis]combinetosuggestthattheresolutiontothe200-year-oldIndoEuropeanenigmaliesinahybridofthe[SteppeandAnatolia]hypotheses."

FREE WRITING

Write about **languages** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

The world would be better if there was just one, global language. Discuss.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. LANGUAGES: Make a poster about languages. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. A GLOBAL LANGUAGE: Write a magazine article about having just one language on Earth. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on languages. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on your language. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. f 3. b 4. g 5. c 6. e 7. a
8. k 9. i 10. m 11. h 12. l 13. n 14. j

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

1 F 2 T 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 F 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. a	7. f	8. i	9. g	10. d

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Evolutionary linguists
2. More than 8,100 years ago
3. 200 years old
4. On the northern shore of the Black Sea
5. Present-day Turkey
6. Nearly half of the world's population
7. Over 100 million
8. 52
9. The study co-author
10. A hybrid

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Linguists believe they have made a significant breakthrough.
2. An ancient predecessor may have been spoken.
3. Their study may resolve a 200-year-old dispute.
4. Where the ancestor of English came from.
5. A competing theory is English originated from Anatolia.
6. Languages spoken by half of the world's population.
7. The most commonly-spoken members of this family.
8. Over 80 language specialists created a huge databank.
9. The study included 52 ancient and historical languages.
10. The resolution to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. b 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)