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Level 1 – 21st March 2024

Human speech is 8 times older than we thought

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<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-origins-speaking-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 | a. doubt, the key |
| 2. An expert believes | b. 200,000 years ago |
| 3. language started 1.6 million | c. that |
| 4. eight times earlier | d. cultural evolution |
| 5. human language began | e. years ago |
| 6. the first human language | f. humans first spoke |
| 7. speech was, without | g. developed in Africa |
| 8. physical and | h. than we thought |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The expert wrote | a. all over the world |
| 2. our brain got | b. actions |
| 3. An area for language developed in | c. about human speech |
| 4. Another important | d. on knowledge |
| 5. Speech allowed humans to move | e. our brain |
| 6. It meant humans | f. development |
| 7. plan future | g. bigger |
| 8. they could pass | 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.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

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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) _____

