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Level 4

Cutting up food helped human evolution

11th March, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-4.html>

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Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-4.html>

Eating habits and food processing skills from two million years ago helped us to develop language. Researchers say that cutting up meat was a crucial step in our evolution. We needed less time for chewing, which gave us more time to develop language and communicate. Cutting up food saved early humans as many as 2.5 million chews per year. In contrast, chimpanzees spend half their day chewing. This means they have less time to communicate.

Researchers also say the shape of our face changed. Our jaws and teeth became smaller. A professor said: "We went from having...big teeth...to having smaller teeth." He said this, "allowed for the selection for speech and other shifts in the head, like bigger brains." The professor chewed raw meat to test his theory. He said: "You chew and you chew and you chew, and nothing happens." He said that slicing meat, "is the simplest technology of all".

Sources: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/science-news/12189080/Table-manners-how-learning-to-cut-up-food-was-crucial-to-human-evolution.html>
<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-raw-meat-stone-tools-evolution-20160309-story.html>
<http://www.livescience.com/53994-paleo-diet-helped-humans-evolve-speech.html>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. food | a. and communicate |
| 2. cutting up | b. their day chewing |
| 3. a crucial step in | c. meat |
| 4. We needed less time | d. processing |
| 5. develop language | e. for chewing |
| 6. as many as 2.5 million | f. communicate |
| 7. chimpanzees spend half | g. our evolution |
| 8. less time to | h. chews per year |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. the shape of | a. nothing happens |
| 2. Our jaws and | b. for speech |
| 3. this allowed for the selection | c. meat |
| 4. bigger | d. our face |
| 5. The professor chewed raw meat to | e. brains |
| 6. you chew and you chew, and | f. of all |
| 7. slicing | g. teeth became smaller |
| 8. the simplest technology | h. test his theory |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-4.html>

Eating habits and food processing (1) _____ million years ago helped us to develop language. Researchers (2) _____ up meat was (3) _____ in our evolution. We needed less time for chewing, which gave (4) _____ develop language and communicate. Cutting up food saved early humans as many as 2.5 million (5) _____. In contrast, chimpanzees spend half their day chewing. This means they (6) _____ communicate.

Researchers also say (7) _____ face changed. Our jaws and teeth became smaller. A professor said: "We (8) _____...big teeth...to having smaller teeth." He said this, "allowed for the selection for speech (9) _____ the head, like bigger brains." The professor chewed raw meat (10) _____. He said: "You chew and you chew and you chew, (11) _____." He said that slicing meat, "is the (12) _____ all".

HUMAN EVOLUTION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about human evolution 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)

g)

h)

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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)

g)

h)

