

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 1

Baby talk is a world language

15th October, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-1.html>

Contents

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| The Reading | 2 |
| Phrase Matching | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| No Spaces | 5 |
| Survey | 6 |
| Writing and Speaking | 7 |
| Writing | 8 |

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

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-1.html>

A study said mothers across the world speak to babies in the same way. Researchers from Princeton University said "motherese" is a world language. The cute noises and coo-coos mothers say to babies are very complex. They are a special form of communication. Motherese helps babies develop their language. A researcher said baby talk is more important than we thought. She said: "It is not something to be embarrassed about at all."

The researchers recorded 24 different mothers. They spoke 10 different languages. Their babies were between seven months and one year. The researchers said they recorded mothers playing with and reading to their babies, just like they do at home. Mothers change the quality of their voices when they speak to their babies, in any language. The study didn't look at fathers' talk, but fathers probably speak to their babies in a similar way across the world.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/oct/12/coo-coo-why-baby-talk-is-more-sophisticated-than-you-might-think>
<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20171013/Timbre-shifting-is-a-new-attribute-of-e2809cbaby-talk-e2809d-found-in-all-languages-study-reveals.aspx>
<http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/the-science-of-baby-talk-motherese-is-a-universal-language-study-confirms-1.3631028>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. mothers | a. complex |
| 2. "motherese" is | b. their language |
| 3. cute noises and | c. embarrassed about |
| 4. babies are very | d. a world language |
| 5. a special form | e. coo-oo |
| 6. helps babies develop | f. we thought |
| 7. more important than | g. across the world |
| 8. not something to be | h. of communication |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. They spoke 10 | a. fathers' talk |
| 2. they recorded | b. do at home |
| 3. reading | c. way |
| 4. just like they | d. different languages |
| 5. change the quality | e. to their babies |
| 6. speak to their babies, | f. of their voices |
| 7. The study didn't look at | g. in any language |
| 8. in a similar | h. mothers |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-1.html>

A study said mothers (1) _____ speak to babies in (2) _____. Researchers from Princeton University said "motherese" is (3) _____. The cute noises and coo-coos mothers say to babies are very complex. They are (4) _____ of communication. Motherese helps babies develop their language. A researcher said baby talk is more important (5) _____. She said: "It is not something to be embarrassed (6) _____."

The researchers recorded 24 different mothers. (7) _____ different languages. Their babies were between (8) _____ one year. The researchers said they recorded mothers playing (9) _____ to their babies, just like they do at home. Mothers change the quality (10) _____ when they speak to their babies, in any language. The (11) _____ at fathers' talk, but fathers probably speak to their babies in (12) _____ across the world.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-1.html>

A study said mothers across the world speak to babies in the same way. Researchers from Princeton University said "motherese" is a world language. The cute noises and coo-choo-choo mothers say to babies are very complex. They are a special form of communication. Motherese helps babies develop their language. Researchers said baby talk is more important than we thought. She said: "It is not something to be embarrassed about at all." The researchers recorded 24 different mothers. They spoke 10 different languages. Their babies were between seven months and one year. The researchers said they recorded mothers playing with and reading to their babies, just like they do at home. Mothers change the quality of their voices when they speak to their babies, in any language. The study didn't look at fathers' talk, but fathers probably speak to their babies in a similar way across the world.

BABY TALK SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171015-baby-talk-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about baby talk 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) _____

Baby talk is a world language – 15th October, 2017
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

