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**Level 5** – 31st July 2023

## 8,000-year-old ancestor of English found

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-5.html>

Linguists say they have made a "significant breakthrough" regarding the origin of Indo-European languages. The linguists traced the origins back more than 8,100 years. The researchers are from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Their study may settle a 200-year-old dispute over where the ancestor of English came from. One school of thought says English has its roots on the northern shore of the Black Sea. A competing theory is that English originated from Anatolia (present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

Nearly half of the world's population speak Indo-European languages. The most commonly-spoken members of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish and Bengali. Each of these have over 100 million native speakers. More than 80 linguists created a databank of core vocabulary from 161 Indo-European languages. The study co-author 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."

Sources: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/english-sanskrit-common-ancestor-language-b2383469.html>  
<https://english.elpais.com/science-tech/2023-07-28/indo-european-dialects-dispersed-across-eurasia-in-successive-waves-over-the-course-of-8000-years.html>  
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2385057-origin-of-indo-european-languages-traced-back-to-8000-years-ago/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Linguists say they have made a | a. more than 8,100 years    |
| 2. the origin of                  | b. day Turkey               |
| 3. traced the origins back        | c. of thought               |
| 4. settle a 200-year-old          | d. northern shore           |
| 5. where the ancestor of          | e. significant breakthrough |
| 6. One school                     | f. dispute                  |
| 7. English has its roots on the   | g. Indo-European languages  |
| 8. present-                       | h. English came from        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Nearly half of the world's     | a. enigma                |
| 2. The most commonly-             | b. speakers              |
| 3. Each of these                  | c. vocabulary            |
| 4. native                         | d. population            |
| 5. 80 linguists created           | e. analysis              |
| 6. core                           | f. spoken members        |
| 7. evolutionary language          | g. a databank            |
| 8. the 200-year-old Indo-European | h. have over 100 million |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-5.html>

Linguists say they have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ breakthrough" regarding (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Indo-European languages. The linguists (3) \_\_\_\_\_ back more than 8,100 years. The researchers are from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Their study may settle a 200-year-old dispute over where (4) \_\_\_\_\_ English came from. One school of thought says English (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on the northern shore of the Black Sea. A (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that English originated from Anatolia (present-day Turkey) 9,000 years ago.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ the world's population speak Indo-European languages. The most (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of this family are English, Hindi, Urdu, Spanish and Bengali. Each of these have over 100 (9) \_\_\_\_\_. More than 80 linguists created a databank (10) \_\_\_\_\_ from 161 Indo-European languages. The study co-author said: "Ancient DNA and [evolutionary language analysis] (11) \_\_\_\_\_ that the resolution to the 200-year-old Indo-European enigma lies in (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the [Steppe and Anatolia] hypotheses."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-5.html>

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# LANGUAGES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2307/230731-indo-european-languages-4.html>

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.

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

