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## **Level 5**

# **Cutting up food helped human evolution**

**11th March, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-5.html>

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**Please try Level 4 (easier) and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-5.html>

Eating habits and food processing skills from two million years ago helped us to evolve and develop language. Researchers say that learning to cut up meat and use stone tools to process food were crucial steps in our evolution. The fact that we cut food up meant we used less time for chewing. This gave us more time to develop language and communicate. The researchers estimate that cutting up food saved early humans as many as 2.5 million chews per year. In contrast, chimpanzees spend half the day chewing, which means they have less time to communicate.

Researchers also say the shape of our face changed because we needed to chew less. Our jaws and teeth became smaller. Professor Daniel Lieberman said: "We went from having...big teeth and large chewing muscles to having smaller teeth [and] smaller chewing muscles. Those changes...allowed for the selection for speech and other shifts in the head, like bigger brains." Dr Lieberman chewed raw meat to test his theory. He said: "You chew and you chew and you chew and you chew, and nothing happens." He said that slicing meat before chewing, "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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. food                   | a. tools           |
| 2. two million            | b. per year        |
| 3. stone                  | c. language        |
| 4. crucial steps in our   | d. processing      |
| 5. more time to develop   | e. the day chewing |
| 6. 2.5 million chews      | f. years ago       |
| 7. chimpanzees spend half | g. communicate     |
| 8. they have less time to | h. evolution       |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

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

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-5.html>

Eating habits and food processing skills from two (1) \_\_\_\_\_ helped us to evolve and develop language. Researchers say that learning to cut up meat and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to process food were crucial steps in our evolution. The fact that we cut food (3) \_\_\_\_\_ less time for chewing. This gave (4) \_\_\_\_\_ develop language and communicate. The researchers estimate that cutting up food (5) \_\_\_\_\_ as many as 2.5 million chews per year. In contrast, chimpanzees spend half the day chewing, (6) \_\_\_\_\_ have less time to communicate.

Researchers also say the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ changed because we needed to chew less. Our (8) \_\_\_\_\_ became smaller. Professor Daniel Lieberman said: "We went from having...big teeth (9) \_\_\_\_\_ muscles to having smaller teeth [and] smaller chewing muscles. Those changes...allowed (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for speech and other shifts in the head, like bigger brains." Dr Lieberman chewed (11) \_\_\_\_\_ his theory. He said: "You chew and you chew and you chew and you chew, and nothing happens." He said that slicing meat before chewing, "(12) \_\_\_\_\_ technology of all".

# HUMAN EVOLUTION SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1603/160311-human-evolution-5.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)

*Cutting up food helped human evolution – 11th March, 2016*  
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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)

