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**Level 5 – 29th May, 2019**

## **Cuckoo completes epic 12,000km migration**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-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/2005/200529-cuckoo-5.html>

A cuckoo has just finished one of the longest migrations ever by any bird. The cuckoo left its winter home in Zambia on March the 20th and reached its breeding ground in Mongolia. Ornithologists called the bird Onon after a Mongolian river. The scientists micro-chipped five cuckoos in Mongolia last summer to track their migration. The tags monitored the birds across the Indian Ocean and 16 countries. Onon was the quickest to make the return journey from Mongolia to Zambia and back. The scientists were amazed at Onon's feat. They called it "a mammoth journey".

The tagging was a joint venture between the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia and the British Trust for Ornithology. The group Birding Beijing also helped. A blog called the Mongolia Cuckoo Project was set up for bird lovers to see the birds' progress. It reported that Onon arrived home after 26,000km, and 27 border crossings through 16 countries. It called the journey: "Remarkable navigation and endurance." It added: "Onon has no time to waste as he needs to set up his territory, defend it from competing males and mate with as many females as possible."

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52815286>  
<https://www.sciencetimes.com/articles/25821/20200526/satellite-follows-mammoth-journey-five-cuckoos-epic.htm>  
<https://birdingbeijing.com/the-mongolia-cuckoo-project/>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. one of the longest    | a. migration            |
| 2. reached its breeding  | b. amazed               |
| 3. The scientists micro- | c. migrations ever      |
| 4. track their           | d. "a mammoth journey"  |
| 5. The tags monitored    | e. ground               |
| 6. make the return       | f. the birds            |
| 7. The scientists were   | g. journey              |
| 8. They called it        | h. chipped five cuckoos |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a joint               | a. time to waste       |
| 2. bird                  | b. progress            |
| 3. see the birds'        | c. up his territory    |
| 4. 27 border             | d. lovers              |
| 5. Remarkable navigation | e. females as possible |
| 6. Onon has no           | f. crossings           |
| 7. he needs to set       | g. and endurance       |
| 8. mate with as many     | h. venture             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-5.html>

A cuckoo has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the longest migrations ever by any bird. The cuckoo left its winter home in Zambia on March the 20th and reached (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in Mongolia. Ornithologists called the bird Onon after a Mongolian river. The scientists (3) \_\_\_\_\_ cuckoos in Mongolia last summer to (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The tags monitored the birds across the Indian Ocean and 16 countries. Onon was the quickest to make (5) \_\_\_\_\_ from Mongolia to Zambia and back. The scientists were amazed at Onon's feat. They called it "(6) \_\_\_\_\_".

The tagging was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ between the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia and the British Trust for Ornithology. The group Birding Beijing also helped. A (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Mongolia Cuckoo Project was set up for (9) \_\_\_\_\_ see the birds' progress. It reported that Onon arrived home after 26,000km, and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ through 16 countries. It called the journey: "Remarkable (11) \_\_\_\_\_." It added: "Onon has no time to waste as he needs to set up his territory, defend it from competing males and mate with as many (12) \_\_\_\_\_."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-5.html>

A cuckoo has just finished one of the longest migrations ever by any bird. The cuckoo left its winter home in Zambia on March the 20th and reached its breeding ground in Mongolia. Ornithologists called the bird Onon after a Mongolian river. The scientists micro-chipped five cuckoos in Mongolia last summer to track their migration. The tags monitored the birds across the Indian Ocean and 16 countries. Onon was the quickest to make the return journey from Mongolia to Zambia and back. The scientists were amazed at Onon's feat. They called it "a mammoth journey". The tagging was a joint venture between the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia and the British Trust for Ornithology. The group Birding Beijing also helped. A blog called the Mongolia Cuckoo Project was set up for bird lovers to see the birds' progress. It reported that Onon arrived home after 26,000 km, and 27 border crossings through 16 countries. It called the journey: "Remarkable navigation and endurance." It added: "Onon has not time to waste as he needs to set up his territory, defend it from competing males and mate with as many females as possible."

# CUCKOOS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cuckoos 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Cuckoo completes epic 12,000km migration – 29th May, 2019*  
More free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

# WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2005/200529-cuckoo-5.html>

Write about **cuckoos** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

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