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Level 5

Best to learn a new language before age of 10

4th May, 2018

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-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/1805/180504-language-learning-5.html>

New research suggests that to achieve native-like proficiency in a new language, people should start learning before the age of ten. Researchers said children up to the age of 18 remain skilled at learning grammar. Unfortunately, those who want to pick up a new language beyond their late teens are past the "critical period" when language-learning ability starts to decline. A researcher said: "As far as a child is concerned, it's quite easy to become bilingual....That's when you're best at learning languages. It's not really something that you can make up later."

The research was based on the results of 670,000 people taking a 10-minute online grammar quiz. Researchers measured the grammatical ability of people who started learning a language at different points in their life. The test had grammar rules that were likely to confuse non-native speakers. These measured a person's proficiency. Another researcher suggested older people might be too busy to learn a language. He said after 17 or 18, people leave home, go to university or start work. All of these could affect how well someone learns a language.

Sources: http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2018/05/critical_period_for_learning_l.html?cmp=RSS-FEED
<http://www.euronews.com/2018/05/01/-critical-period-for-learning-new-language-says-study>
<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/6190032/kids-aged-ten-can-learn-languages-fluently/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. achieve native- | a. at learning languages |
| 2. pick up a | b. like proficiency |
| 3. beyond their late | c. bilingual |
| 4. past the critical | d. teens |
| 5. language-learning ability | e. up later |
| 6. it's quite easy to become | f. period |
| 7. That's when you're best | g. starts to decline |
| 8. something that you can make | h. new language |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The research was based | a. non-native speakers |
| 2. a 10-minute online | b. in their life |
| 3. grammatical | c. learns a language |
| 4. at different points | d. grammar quiz |
| 5. rules that were likely to confuse | e. be too busy |
| 6. These measured a | f. on the results |
| 7. people might | g. person's proficiency |
| 8. how well someone | h. ability |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-5.html>

New research suggests (1) _____ native-like proficiency in a new language, people should start learning before the age of ten. Researchers said children up to the age of 18 (2) _____ learning grammar. Unfortunately, those who want (3) _____ a new language beyond their late teens are past (4) _____ when language-learning ability (5) _____. A researcher said: "As far as a child is concerned, it's quite easy to become bilingual....That's when you're best at learning languages. It's not really something that you can (6) _____."

The research was based on (7) _____ 670,000 people taking a 10-minute online grammar quiz. Researchers measured the grammatical ability of people who started learning a language (8) _____ in their life. The test had grammar rules that were (9) _____ non-native speakers. These measured a person's proficiency. Another researcher (10) _____ might be too busy to learn a language. He said after 17 or 18, (11) _____, go to university or start work. All of these (12) _____ well someone learns a language.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-5.html>

New research suggests that to achieve native-like proficiency in a new language, people should start learning before the age of ten. Researchers said children up to the age of 18 remain skilled at learning grammar. Unfortunately, those who want to pick up a new language beyond their late teens are past the "critical period" when language-learning ability starts to decline. A researcher said: "As far as a child is concerned, it's quite easy to become bilingual.... That's when you're best at learning languages. It's not really something that you can make up later." The research was based on the results of 670,000 people taking a 10-minute online grammar quiz. Researchers measured the grammatical ability of people who started learning a language at different points in their life. The test had grammar rules that were likely to confuse non-native speakers. These measured a person's proficiency. Another researcher suggested older people might be too busy to learn a language. He said after 17 or 18, people leave home, go to university or start work. All of these could affect how well someone learns a language.

LANGUAGE LEARNING SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about language learning 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1805/180504-language-learning-5.html>

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