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Level 4 – 31st March 2025

Babies make memories but cannot remember them

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-4.html>

Most of us cannot remember being a baby. However, some people say they can. Researchers in the United States studied why people have no recollection of things that happened in their earliest years. The researchers investigated whether babies formed memories. A researcher suggested babies may not be able to form memories. He said: "Babies' brains have the capacity for forming memories, but how long-lasting these memories are is still an open question."

The research suggests that babies could store some memories. They used a special scanner to look at activity in an area of babies' brains called the hippocampus. This is where memories are created. The research found that babies could form memories from the age of two months. They could find patterns in faces, language, and daily routines. However, memory which allows babies to recall events may not occur until the hippocampus is more mature.

Sources: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/3/29/why-cant-we-remember-our-early-years-do-babies-make-memories-at-all>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00855-0>
<https://www.science.org/content/article/pioneering-study-scans-babies-brains-they-form-memories>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Most of us | a. in their earliest years |
| 2. being | b. forming memories |
| 3. some people say | c. a baby |
| 4. people have no | d. question |
| 5. things that happened | e. recollection |
| 6. investigated whether babies | f. cannot remember |
| 7. brains have the capacity for | g. formed memories |
| 8. still an open | h. they can |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. babies could store | a. of two months |
| 2. They used a special | b. of babies' brains |
| 3. look at activity in an area | c. routines |
| 4. This is where memories | d. more mature |
| 5. form memories from the age | e. to recall events |
| 6. daily | f. some memories |
| 7. memory which allows babies | g. are created |
| 8. until the hippocampus is | h. scanner |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-4.html>

Most of us cannot (1) _____ baby. However, some people (2) _____. Researchers in the United States studied why people (3) _____ of things that happened in their earliest years. The researchers investigated whether babies formed memories. A researcher suggested babies may not (4) _____ form memories. He said: "Babies' brains have the (5) _____ memories, but how long-lasting these memories are is (6) _____ question."

The research suggests that babies (7) _____ memories. They used a special scanner to (8) _____ in an area of babies' brains called the hippocampus. This is where (9) _____. The research found that babies could form memories (10) _____ of two months. They could find patterns in faces, language, and daily routines. However, memory which allows babies (11) _____ may not occur until the hippocampus (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-4.html>

Most of us cannot remember being a baby. However, some people say they can. Researchers in the United States studied why people have no recollection of things that happened in their earliest years. The researchers investigated whether babies formed memories. A researcher suggested babies may not be able to form memories. He said: "Babies' brains have the capacity for forming memories, but how long-lasting these memories are is still an open question." The research suggests that babies could store some memories. They used a special scanner to look at activity in an area of babies' brains called the hippocampus. This is where memories are created. The research found that babies could form memories from the age of two months. They could find patterns in faces, language, and daily routines. However, memory which allows babies to recall events may not occur until the hippocampus is more mature.

MEMORIES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about memories 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) _____

