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**Level 5 – 31st March 2025**

**Babies make memories but cannot remember them**

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-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/2503/250331-babies-memories-5.html>

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

The research is in the journal "Science". It suggests that babies can store memories. Researchers 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 can form limited memories from the age of two months. It is possible that infants can find patterns in faces, language, and daily routines. However, memory which allows babies to recall specific events may take longer to form. This kind of memory may not occur until the hippocampus is more fully 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. remember                    | a. able to remember    |
| 2. some people say             | b. recollection        |
| 3. the first                   | c. being a baby        |
| 4. people have no              | d. question            |
| 5. things that happened        | e. they can            |
| 6. investigated whether babies | f. in the first years  |
| 7. we may not be               | g. formed memories     |
| 8. an open                     | h. year of their lives |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The research is in the   | a. are created       |
| 2. babies can               | b. more fully mature |
| 3. Researchers used         | c. of babies' brains |
| 4. in an area               | d. store memories    |
| 5. This is where memories   | e. routines          |
| 6. babies can form limited  | f. journal "Science" |
| 7. daily                    | g. memories          |
| 8. until the hippocampus is | h. a special scanner |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-5.html>

Most people cannot remember (1) \_\_\_\_\_.  
However, some people say they can remember  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ first year of their lives. Researchers  
in the United States studied why people have  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ things that happened in the first  
years of their lives. The research team also investigated whether  
babies formed (4) \_\_\_\_\_. A researcher  
suggested we may not be able to remember being a baby. He said:  
"Babies' brains have (5) \_\_\_\_\_ forming  
memories, but how long-lasting these memories are is still  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The research is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ "Science". It  
suggests that babies can store memories. Researchers used a (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_ look at activity in an area of babies'  
brains called the hippocampus. This is where (9)  
\_\_\_\_\_. The research found that babies can  
form limited memories from (10) \_\_\_\_\_ two  
months. It is possible that infants can find patterns in faces,  
language, (11) \_\_\_\_\_. However, memory  
which allows babies to recall specific events may take longer to  
form. This kind of memory may not occur until the hippocampus is  
(12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2503/250331-babies-memories-5.html>

Most people cannot remember being a baby. However, some people say they can remember things from the first year of their lives. Researchers in the United States studied why people have no recollection of things that happened in the first year of their lives. The research team also investigated whether babies formed memories at all. A researcher suggested we may not be able to remember being a baby. He said: "Babies' brains have the capacity for forming memories, but how long-lasting these memories are is still an open question." The research is in the journal "Science". It suggests that babies can store memories. Researchers 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 can form limited memories from the age of two months. It is possible that infants can find patterns in faces, language, and daily routines. However, memory which allows babies to recall specific events may take longer to form. This kind of memory may not occur until the hippocampus is more fully 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Babies make memories but cannot remember them – 31st March 2025*  
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) \_\_\_\_\_

