

Re: The Neanderthals had a key language gene, researchers report.

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- *From:* Eric Stevens <[eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 22 Oct 2007 10:07:52 +1300
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On Sat, 20 Oct 2007 07:56:54 -0700, Jack Linthicum  
<[jacklinthicum@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jacklinthicum@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Until now, humans were thought to have a unique version of FOXP2, the only gene shown to play a role in language. People who are missing a copy have difficulty with speaking and language comprehension.

But two Neanderthals who died 43,000 years ago had the same kind of FOXP2 as people alive today, researchers reported Thursday in Current Biology.

Neanderthals may or may not have had the full set of genes required for complex speech but the jury is still out on whether or not they had the necessary physical equipment. See <http://sjohn30.tripod.com/id1.html>

Eric Stevens

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