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The next time you refer to someone as monkeying around you may not be that far from the truth.

Chimpanzees are our closest relative as a species and we share at least 98% of our genome with them. Our feline friends share 90% of homologous genes with us, with dogs it is 82%, 80% with cows, 69% with rats and 67% with mice [1].

Human and chimpanzee DNA is so similar because the two species are so closely related. They both descended from a single ancestor species 6 or 7,000,000 years ago. As they evolved, their DNA changed as it was passed from generation to generation. It is these DNA changes that account for the differences between human and chimp appearance and behaviour.