

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

READING

The Truth About UFOs!

Vocabulary Preview

- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| 1. blurry | <u>E</u> | A. to make something false appear to be real |
| 2. unidentified | _____ | B. a large collection of stars in outer space |
| 3. existence | _____ | C. facts that make you believe something is true |
| 4. faked | _____ | D. the fact of being real |
| 5. galaxy | _____ | E. not clear |
| 6. evidence | _____ | F. located outside our solar system |
| 7. extraterrestrial | _____ | G. from or belonging to another planet |
| 8. extrasolar | _____ | H. not known; not identified |

- Use the above words to complete the sentences. Change the forms of verbs and nouns when necessary.

1. Do you believe in the existence of aliens and UFOs?
2. This is an _____ species of animal. No one has seen it before.
3. This camera isn't very good. It takes _____ pictures.
4. The police found new _____ that proves I'm not guilty!
5. He _____ his own death to collect the insurance money.
6. Some scientists are searching for _____ radio signals.
7. Our _____ is called The Milky Way.
8. Scientists have discovered thousands of _____ planets.

- Choose any two of the above words and write your own sentences.

1. _____
2. _____

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READING

Topics: Aliens / Space & Space Travel



The Truth About UFOs!

Are UFOs real? “No, of course not! The only place that you might find a UFO is in a science fiction story or in one of the latest Hollywood movies. Sure, there are hundreds of **blurry**¹ photographs (and even a few videos) of objects that some people claim to be UFOs (also known as **unidentified**² flying objects, or flying saucers). But these are not real proof of the **existence**³ of visitors from other planets. These could be images of balloons, birds, aircraft, or clouds. They might even be **faked**⁴ images. Anyway, why would aliens travel across the **galaxy**⁵ to Earth ... and then try to keep themselves hidden from our eyes? It just doesn't make any sense!”

These are just a few of the arguments that can be made against the claim that UFOs are real. However, there is growing **evidence**⁶ that suggests UFOs are, in fact, very real! First, many people say that the US military found a UFO, and even the bodies of dead aliens, that crashed in New Mexico in 1947 – but that the American government has been keeping it secret from the public. The first collected evidence for the existence of flying saucers was published a few years later, in 1950, by Major Donald Keyhoe, a former US military officer, in a book called, “The Flying Saucers Are Real.” More recently, in 2017, the US navy shared videos of unidentified objects flying at extremely high speeds. The videos were taken by navy pilots over both the Pacific and the East Coast of the United States. According to one of the pilots, one of the objects “moved in a way that we couldn't explain.” NASA (the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* which was responsible for sending the first people to the moon) says that, while there is no evidence to show for sure that UFOs are from other planets, neither is there evidence to show that they are NOT of **extraterrestrial**⁷ origin. Finally, since the discovery of the first planet outside of our own solar system in 1992, thousands of more **extrasolar**⁸ planets have been found. This, of course, greatly increases the possibility that aliens are visiting us! And this raises an important question: if aliens really are visiting us, are they friendly, and should we welcome them ... or should we be worried?

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Grammar Practice

The Truth About UFOs!

These are just a few of the arguments that can be made against the claim that UFOs are real. However, there is growing evidence that (1)_____ UFOs are, in fact, very real! First, many people say that the US military found a UFO, and even the bodies of dead aliens, (2)_____ crashed in New Mexico in 1947 – but that the American government has been (3)_____ it secret from the public. The first collected evidence for the existence of flying saucers was published (4)_____ years later, in 1950, by Major Donald Keyhoe, a former US military officer, in a book called, “The Flying Saucers Are Real.” More recently, in 2017, the US navy (5)_____ videos of unidentified objects flying (6)_____ extremely high speeds. The videos (7)_____ by navy pilots over both the Pacific and the East Coast of the United States. According to one of the pilots, one of the objects “moved in a way that we (8)_____ explain.” NASA (the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* which was responsible for sending the first people to the moon) says that, while there (9)_____ evidence to show for sure that UFOs are from other planets, neither is there evidence to show that they are NOT of extraterrestrial (10)_____. Finally, since the discovery of the first planet outside of our own solar system in 1992, thousands of more extrasolar planets (11)_____ found. This, of course, greatly increases the possibility that aliens are visiting us! And this raises an important question: if aliens really are visiting us, are they friendly, and should we (12)_____ them ... or should we be worried?

1.
(A) is suggesting
(B) suggest
(C) suggests

2.
(A) that
(B) where
(C) then

3.
(A) keeps
(B) kept
(C) keeping

4.
(A) few
(B) a few
(C) a little

5.
(A) shared
(B) was shared
(C) has shared

6.
(A) for
(B) in
(C) at

7.
(A) took
(B) were taken
(C) had taken

8.
(A) weren't
(B) couldn't
(C) hadn't

9.
(A) is no
(B) don't
(C) not

10.
(A) original
(B) originate
(C) origin

11.
(A) have been
(B) was
(C) could have

12.
(A) welcomed
(B) welcome
(C) welcoming

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How Much Do You Understand?

● *Complete the statements.*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Some people think that | A. wrote a book about UFOs. |
| 2. The US military may have | B. or not aliens will be friendly. |
| 3. A former US military officer | C. videos of flying objects they can't explain. |
| 4. US navy pilots have taken | D. found a crashed UFO in 1947. |
| 5. The discovery of thousands of | E. UFOs are not real. |
| 6. No one knows for sure whether | F. extrasolar planets increases the possibility that UFOs exist. |

Discuss

● *Discuss the following questions with your classmates.*

1. Have you ever seen a strange object in the sky that you can't explain?
If 'yes', describe what you saw. If 'no', do you know anyone who has?
2. Do you think UFOs are real? Why? / Why not?
3. Should we welcome aliens (if they are real) . . . or should we be worried?
Give reasons for your opinion.

Write

● *What three reasons can you think of for why we should NOT welcome aliens?*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Lesson "The Truth About UFOs!"

Grammar Focus Mixed: Past Simple & Cont., Passive, "would" (talk about future in the past)

Vocabulary 387 words

A1 words-58% / **A2** words-18% / **B1** words-9% / **B2** words-7% /

C1 words-1% / **C2** words-0% / **Off List**-8%

AWL Words in this text: *administration, evidence, finally, found, images, major, military, published*

Vocabulary Analysis by: vocabkitchen.com

Level Intermediate to Upper Intermediate (CEFR B1 – B2)

ANSWER KEY Page 1

● Vocabulary

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 1. E | 1. existence |
| 2. H | 2. unidentified |
| 3. D | 3. blurry |
| 4. A | 4. evidence |
| 5. B | 5. faked |
| 6. C | 6. extraterrestrial |
| 7. G | 7. galaxy |
| 8. F | 8. extrasolar |

ANSWER KEY Page 3

● Grammar

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 7. B |
| 2. A | 8. B |
| 3. C | 9. A |
| 4. B | 10. C |
| 5. A | 11. A |
| 6. C | 12. B |

ANSWER KEY Page 4

● How Much Do You Understand?

1. Some people think that (E) UFOs are not real.
2. The US military may have (D) found a crashed UFO in 1947.
3. A former US military officer (A) wrote a book about UFOs.
4. US navy pilots have taken (C) videos of flying objects they can't explain.
5. The discovery of thousands of (F) extrasolar planets increases the possibility that UFOs exist.
6. No one knows for sure whether (B) or not aliens will be friendly.



Article Sources:

- *NASA joins the hunt for UFOs*
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- *The Pentagon Released U.F.O. Videos. Don't Hold Your Breath for a Breakthrough.*
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/us/pentagon-ufo-videos.html>
- *WATCH: Navy pilot describes encounter with 'Tic Tac' shaped unidentified flying object*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlrz84nEXtk>