

Choose the correct or more natural answer in this radio news report.

Emergency services were bombarded with phone calls from all over the north of the country last night by people who (1) *are reporting / reported* seeing blue objects shoot across the sky. Mrs Sophia Olsen (2) *drove / was driving* along the main road at the time.

'I(3) 'm *usually coming / usually came* along that bit of road at about ten. As I(4) *was going I go* past the old barn, I(5) *was seeing / saw* a single bright blue light going across the road in front of my car. I (6) *stopped / stop the car* and (7) *was watching / am watching* it for about fifteen minutes.

It (8) *was travelling / travels* quite slowly from east to west and then it (9) 's *suddenly disappearing/ suddenly disappeared*. Until now I (10) *wasn't believing / didn't believe in* UFOs, although my son (11) *is forever trying/forever tries* to persuade me that they (12) *are existing / exist*. But now I (13) *thought / 'm thinking that* maybe he (14) *was being / was right.'*

Dr Maria Walker, a lecturer in astronomy at Trumpton University, (15) *offers / is offering* a simple explanation. The reports that (16) *were coming / come* in

last night (17) *are suggesting / suggest* that it (18) *was / is a meteor shower*.

This (19) *is / was* not unusual on a small scale, but last night's shower (20) *is seeming / seems* to have been very large. In fact, we (21) *were getting / are getting* an increasing number of meteor showers, and my department (22) *is currently researching / currently researches* possible reasons for this.'

But many witnesses to the events (23) ***believe / are believing*** that they (24) ***are observing / were observing*** more than a meteor shower, and that last night the Earth was actually visited by beings from outer space.

Choose the correct tense.

A: Good morning, Mr Nilsson. What can I do for you?

B: Well, doctor, (1) ***I've been getting / I I've got*** some really bad headaches.

A: Okay. Can you tell me exactly when these headaches (2) ***were starting / started***?

B: Oh, yes, I (3) ***have remembered / remember*** it vividly — it was on a Friday three weeks ago. I (4) ***had been working / worked*** in front of my computer all week because I (5) ***did / was doing*** a job for an important client —(6) ***I was working / I've been working*** as a website designer for the last few years, you see. I (7) ***had just finished / I had just been finishing*** when the pain started, and by the end of that day I (8) ***was feeling / I have felt*** really bad.

B: Okay. And how (9) ***have you slept / I have you been sleeping?***

A: Not very well, actually. Usually I'm asleep as soon as my head (10) ***hits / is hitting*** the pillow, but recently (11) ***I've been having / I I'm having*** difficulty getting to sleep.

B: I see. Now, (12) ***I'm noticing / I notice*** that you wear glasses. (13) ***Have you had / Were you having*** your eyes tested recently?

A: No, I(14) ***haven't had / didn't have*** them tested for a couple of years, I suppose.

A: Okay, what (15) ***I suggest / I'm suggesting*** is that first you get your eyes tested. Then when you (16) ***are working / have worked*** at your computer, take frequent breaks to rest your eyes. If that (17) ***hasn't solved / doesn't solve*** the problem, come back and see me again.

For questions 1 —8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

Planets beyond our solar system

Throughout history we have wondered about the possibility 1 _____ life beyond the Earth.

It is only in recent years, however, that advances in technology 2 _____ revealed the existence of extrasolar planets (or 'exoplanets'); 3 _____ is to say, planets which orbit not our own Sun, but other stars in the universe. So 4 _____, astronomers have identified a few thousand exoplanets, but believe that billions more exist.

Although many astronomers believe that a large number of planets in the universe 5 _____ capable of supporting 6 _____ kind of living organism, whether or not life has developed on any of them 7 _____ not yet known. An essential requirement for life is liquid water. 8 _____ a planet is to have liquid water on its surface, its temperature must be 9 _____ too hot nor too cold. However, 10 _____ a planet, other than the Earth, has yet to be discovered.