

You are going to listen to a report about the International Space Station. For gaps 1–7, use one or two words to complete the sentences. 0 is the example.

Life on a space ship

New water system in the year 0 2009.

The NASA space workers drank from a 1 _____. The water made from urine was described as 2 _____.

NASA introduced the system because the 3 _____ of transport was too high.

Each day, the average amount of water drunk per 4 _____ is 2 litres. The system may become popular on the 5 _____ or Mars, too.

The water is 6 _____, then finally stored and filtered.

There is a misunderstanding of how water is cleaned up among the 7 _____.

You are going to listen to a report about UFOs. Decide if each statement (1–7) is true (T) or false (F).

- 1 There has been little interest among the public in aliens.
- 2 In 1996, the highest ever number of UFO sightings was recorded.
- 3 A television programme made UFOs less popular.
- 4 Most people who report UFOs have seen normal objects.
- 5 A car company included a UFO in a television advert.
- 6 In south-west England and Wales, six people reported an object.
- 7 Experts feel that UFO sightings sometimes have no easy explanation.

Transcript listening 1

It may sound like science fiction, but in 2009 astronauts at the International Space Station didn't take 'one giant step for mankind' but drank one big glass of recycled urine! NASA celebrated as the space station crew made a toast with their drinking bags which were full of water that had been taken from the astronauts' urine, sweat, and condensed water from exhaled air. All the astronauts agreed the water tasted absolutely fine, and better than some city tap water.

The whole idea of drinking your own urine may sound disgusting to most of us, but the NASA system was designed to help reduce the cost of sending so many supplies of drinking water to the station via a space shuttle, a cost of over 10 million US dollars a year. As many as six people can be working on the space station at one time and each drinks an average of two litres of water a day. In the future NASA also plan to use the water recycling system in outposts on the Moon and Mars.

The water system was designed to purify liquid quickly. The recycling unit moves urine into a tank where water is boiled. Once completed the remaining water is stored and the water vapour is collected separately. At the next stage, all contaminated material is removed from the water, and then the water is recombined with the vapour from air condensation before being finally filtered. For six astronauts at the station, the system could supply about 22 litres of drinking water from urine in approximately six hours.

Laboratory technicians at the space station said the idea might cause horror among the public, but in fact many other sewerage and waste systems use a similar technique to purify water, although the results take much longer to reach our kitchen taps.

Transcript listening 2

We probably all remember the film E.T., but when it comes to UFOs, or people seeing strange objects in the sky, most sceptics would agree with the majority of scientific or military research findings, which state that there is absolutely no real evidence to prove that intelligent life forms or alien spacecraft have actually visited our planet. However, a recent set of files which were officially released by the British Ministry of Defence demonstrated that people in the UK were generally obsessed by the idea of flying saucers and strange phenomena.

The files revealed that between 1993 and 1996 over 800 UFO or unusual sightings had been reported, and that this figure reached its highest point in 1996, with approximately 600 reports. One explanation for the figure in 1996 was that it coincided with the broadcast on British TV of the popular American science fiction series The X-Files, with Agents Mulder and Scully trying to understand the significance of any number of strange flying objects and alien appearances.

Most Ministry of Defence specialists and other UFO research units agreed that a logical explanation could be found for most reported sightings. In about 99% of cases, people had confused what they saw with normal aircraft, satellites in orbit, weather balloons, search lights, or lasers. Between 1993 and 1994, many people reported that they had seen a bright, oval object flying over London. This was, in fact, an airship which was being used to launch an advertising campaign for a new car.

However, the Ministry files also demonstrated that not all reports of sightings were without basis. One example was the case of the very bright lights which were seen over the south-west of England and south Wales in March 1993. Over a period of six hours, many civilians, as well as 70 police officers and several military witnesses, reported seeing an unidentified object. The reports described the object as large, with a shape similar to a catamaran, and it made no noise. One defence specialist said that the high quality of the witnesses' reports couldn't be ignored, and that it was obvious that some unidentified object had been flying over UK airspace without being detected by a radar. He added that the official Ministry position was to be impartial, and there were reports which couldn't always easily be explained.