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Level 6

Mysterious space object could be monitoring us

16th December, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Scientists believe there is a possibility that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are excited about a giant, mysterious space object that has passed close to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described the object as an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to be formed naturally. This suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have dubbed the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at great speed through the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's breadth relative to the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to originate from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the Sun and is instead travelling on its own path that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a unique event that possibly offered new secrets.

Sources:

<http://breakthroughinitiatives.org/news/14>

http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2017/12/scientists_are_watching_oumuamua_an_asteroid_they_think_could_be_an_alien.html

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/alien-probe-or-galactic-driftwood-seti-tunes-in-to-oumuamua/>

WARM-UPS

1. SPACE OBJECTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about space objects. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

scientists / aliens / astronomers / mysterious / planet / evidence / rock / language /
at great speed / solar system / distance / universe / gravitational / galaxy / secrets

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. FRIENDS: Students A **strongly** believe aliens would be friends rather than enemies; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ALIENS: What do we need to think about if aliens wanted to land? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What we should do	Why?
Planetary safety		
Disease		
Who they should see		
Discussion agenda		
Cooperation		
Our cultures		

5. LISTEN: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "listen". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. ALIEN DANGERS: Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers of aliens visiting Earth at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- strange diseases
- radioactivity
- global panic
- they want our resources
- inter-galactic war
- an invasion of Earth
- Armageddon
- something unknown

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. astronomers | a. A type or variety of something. |
| 2. mysterious | b. All of the facts or information to show whether a belief or opinion is true or valid. |
| 3. evidence | c. Difficult or impossible to understand, explain, or identify. |
| 4. civilizations | d. Gave an unofficial name or nickname to someone or something. |
| 5. form | e. Students or experts in the branch of science that deals with space and the universe. |
| 6. extra-terrestrial | f. Society, culture, and way of life of a particular area. |
| 7. dubbed | g. Of or from outside the earth or its atmosphere; alien life. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 8. solar system | h. Of very great extent or quantity. |
| 9. distance | i. Create or initiate something. |
| 10. a hair's breadth | j. Areas of something, typically land or sea, with a wide continuous surface. |
| 11. vast | k. The amount of space between two things or people. |
| 12. expanses | l. Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. |
| 13. originate | m. The collection of eight planets and their moons in orbit around the sun, together with the asteroids, comets and other space objects. |
| 14. unique | n. A very, very small distance or measurement of the width of something. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A group of scientists called Breakthrough Listen found the space object. **T / F**
- b. The scientists work at a university in Hawaii. **T / F**
- c. The rock has no straight lines and is totally curved. **T / F**
- d. The rock was given a nickname that means 'Solar Friend'. **T / F**
- e. Scientists say the rock is the size of 85 moons. **T / F**
- f. The rock is the first object in our solar system from another system. **T / F**
- g. The rock was travelling at a speed of over 300,000 kph. **T / F**
- h. The scientists said the rock was a sign that aliens existed. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. possibility | a. proof |
| 2. mysterious | b. comparable |
| 3. evidence | c. made |
| 4. formed | d. noticed |
| 5. dubbed | e. emerged |
| 6. spotted | f. chance |
| 7. relative | g. singular |
| 8. vast | h. puzzling |
| 9. originated | i. huge |
| 10. unique | j. nicknamed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. there is a possibility | a. our planet |
| 2. a giant, mysterious | b. through the solar system |
| 3. passed close to | c. of extra-terrestrial life |
| 4. Some scientists believe the rock | d. originated in another galaxy |
| 5. designed by some form | e. space object |
| 6. It was travelling at great speed | f. pull of the Sun |
| 7. just a hair's breadth relative | g. that aliens are listening to us |
| 8. it is outside the gravitational | h. offered new secrets |
| 9. travelling on its own path that | i. has too many straight lines |
| 10. a unique event that possibly | j. to the vast expanses |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Scientists believe there is a (1) _____ that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are excited about a (2) _____, mysterious space object that has passed close to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists search for (3) _____ of civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described the (4) _____ as an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many (5) _____ lines on it for it to be formed (6) _____. This suggests it could have been designed by some (7) _____ of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have dubbed the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first (8) _____' in the Hawaiian language.

object
naturally
giant
messenger'
possibility
evidence
form
straight

The astronomers first (9) _____ Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at great (10) _____ through the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's breadth relative to the vast (11) _____ of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to (12) _____ from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational (13) _____ of the Sun and is instead travelling on its own (14) _____ that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a (15) _____ that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a (16) _____ event that possibly offered new secrets.

expanses
pull
unique
speed
originate
sign
spotted
path

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

- 1) Scientists believe there is a possibility that aliens are _____
 - a. listening twos
 - b. listening 'twas
 - c. listening tours
 - d. listening to us
- 2) Breakthrough Listen are excited about a giant, _____ object
 - a. mysteries space
 - b. mystical space
 - c. mysterious space
 - d. miss teary us space
- 3) Breakthrough Listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations _____
 - a. beyond Earth
 - b. behind Earth
 - c. be bond Earth
 - d. bee yonder Earth
- 4) scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it _____ naturally
 - a. to being formed
 - b. to be formed
 - c. to be farmed
 - d. too be formed
- 5) The scientists have _____ Oumuamua
 - a. daubed the rock
 - b. dubbed the rock
 - c. dabbed the rock
 - d. doubled the rock
- 6) It was travelling at great speed through the solar _____ Earth
 - a. system and parsed
 - b. system and passed
 - c. system and past
 - d. system and psst
- 7) This is just a hair's breadth relative to the vast _____ universe
 - a. expanse is of the
 - b. expands of the
 - c. expanses of the
 - d. expands is of the
- 8) its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the _____ the Sun
 - a. gravitational pull off
 - b. gravitational push of
 - c. gravitation all pull of
 - d. gravitational pull off
- 9) The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was _____ aliens
 - a. a sign that
 - b. assign that
 - c. ass sign that
 - d. as sign that
- 10) the huge rock and its journey was a unique event that _____ new secrets
 - a. possibly offer it
 - b. possible offered
 - c. possibly offering
 - d. possibly offered

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Scientists believe there is a possibility (1) _____ listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are excited (2) _____, mysterious space object that has passed close to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists search (3) _____ civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described (4) _____ an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many (5) _____ it for it to be formed naturally. This suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists (6) _____ rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at (7) _____ the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is (8) _____ breadth relative to the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears (9) _____ another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it (10) _____ gravitational pull of the Sun and is instead travelling on (11) _____ that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was (12) _____ that possibly offered new secrets.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

1. What is the name of the program the scientists are on?
2. What are the astronomers searching for?
3. How wide is the rock from space?
4. What did scientists say the rock contains too many of?
5. What does 'Oumuamua' mean?
6. When did astronomers first spot the rock?
7. How many times the distance to the Moon was the rock to Earth?
8. How fast was Oumuamua travelling?
9. What is Oumuamua not travelling under the gravitational pull of?
10. What did scientists say Oumuamua might offer?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

- 1) What is the name of the program the scientists are on?
 - a) Breakthrough Alien
 - b) Breakthrough Listen
 - c) Breakthrough Earth
 - d) Breakthrough Space
- 2) What are the astronomers searching for?
 - a) radio waves
 - b) space dust
 - c) a planet we can live on
 - d) civilizations in space
- 3) How wide is the space rock?
 - a) 80 metres
 - b) 800 metres
 - c) 88 metres
 - d) 880 metres
- 4) What did scientists say the rock contains too many of?
 - a) aliens
 - b) chemicals
 - c) straight lines
 - d) radio waves
- 5) What does 'Oumuamua' mean?
 - a) welcome rock
 - b) first messenger
 - c) hello Hawaii
 - d) cosmic traveller
- 6) When did astronomers first spot the rock?
 - a) October
 - b) 1907
 - c) 3 days ago
 - d) in the times of Galileo
- 7) How many times the distance to the Moon was the rock to Earth?
 - a) 70
 - b) 80
 - c) 85
 - d) 800
- 8) How fast was Oumuamua travelling?
 - a) over 300,000 kph
 - b) 301,000 kph
 - c) just under 300,000 kph
 - d) exactly 300,000 kph
- 9) What is Oumuamua not travelling under the gravitational pull of?
 - a) the Sun
 - b) the Moon
 - c) the sea
 - d) Mars
- 10) What did scientists say Oumuamua might offer?
 - a) a place to live
 - b) aliens
 - c) minerals
 - d) secrets

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Role A – Armageddon

You think Armageddon would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): global panic, disease or the colonization of Earth.

Role B – Global Panic

You think global panic would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): Armageddon, disease or the colonization of Earth.

Role C – Disease

You think disease would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): global panic, Armageddon or the colonization of Earth.

Role D – The Colonization of Earth

You think the colonization of Earth would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): global panic, disease or Armageddon.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'space' and 'object'.

space	object

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• possibility• giant• search• 80• lines• dubbed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• great• vast• pull• unlikely• secrets
--	--

SPACE OBJECTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Write five GOOD questions about space objects in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

SPACE OBJECTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'space'?
3. What do you think of astronomy?
4. What would you think if aliens are listening to us?
5. How much is today's life like science fiction?
6. Do you hope this mysterious rock is from aliens?
7. What kind of civilizations might exist in space?
8. What would you want to know from an alien?
9. How would you feel about aliens arriving on Earth?
10. What might extra-terrestrial life look like?

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SPACE OBJECTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'object'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Who should aliens talk to first if they came to Earth?
15. Would aliens be friends or enemies to people on Earth?
16. What would you do if you found an alien in your bathroom?
17. Will wars in space happen one day?
18. How would you feel about visiting an alien civilization?
19. What secrets could the rock have?
20. What questions would you like to ask the astronomers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Scientists believe there is a (1) _____ that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are (2) _____ about a giant, mysterious space object that has passed (3) _____ to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described the object (4) _____ an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to be (5) _____ naturally. This suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have (6) _____ the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at great (7) _____ through the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's (8) _____ relative to the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to (9) _____ from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational (10) _____ of the Sun and is instead travelling on its own (11) _____ that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a (12) _____ event that possibly offered new secrets.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) possible | (b) possibility | (c) possibles | (d) possibilities |
| 2. | (a) excitement | (b) excited | (c) excites | (d) exciting |
| 3. | (a) closed | (b) closes | (c) closeness | (d) close |
| 4. | (a) is | (b) as | (c) has | (d) was |
| 5. | (a) forms | (b) formation | (c) former | (d) formed |
| 6. | (a) dibbed | (b) dabbed | (c) dubbed | (d) dabbled |
| 7. | (a) speed | (b) speedy | (c) sped | (d) speedway |
| 8. | (a) broth | (b) hearth | (c) breadth | (d) dearth |
| 9. | (a) originally | (b) origins | (c) origin | (d) originate |
| 10. | (a) pull | (b) push | (c) drag | (d) draw |
| 11. | (a) path | (b) alley | (c) trail | (d) avenue |
| 12. | (a) unique | (b) unify | (c) union | (d) unit |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Paragraph 1

1. eranormsost from a program
2. a giant, umtseysiro space object
3. scientists search for ideneecv
4. be formed aanutrlyl
5. some form of extra-littersraer life
6. scientists have bbdeud the rock Oumuamua

Paragraph 2

7. through the ralos system
8. 85 times the icedtsan to the Moon
9. relative to the vast eesxspna of the universe
10. outside the itaaalrvntogi pull of the Sun
11. its own path that aongiidtr in another galaxy
12. its journey was a unieuq event

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () at the University of Hawaii. They described the object as an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped
- () The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at great speed through the solar
- () exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a unique event that possibly offered new secrets.
- () to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work
- () rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to be formed
- (**1**) Scientists believe there is a possibility that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a
- () naturally. This suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have
- () dubbed the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language.
- () the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to originate
- () program called Breakthrough Listen are excited about a giant, mysterious space object that has passed close
- () in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens
- () system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's breadth relative to
- () from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside
- () the gravitational pull of the Sun and is instead travelling on its own path that originated

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

1. to that are possibility aliens listening A us .
2. a about object Excited mysterious space , giant .
3. it many The straight rock lines has on too .
4. form life of Designed extra- by some terrestrial .
5. rock The have the Oumuamua scientists dubbed .
6. through speed great at Travelling system solar the .
7. About Moon the to distance the times 85 .
8. of expanses vast the to Relative universe the .
9. gravitational It pull is of outside the the Sun .
10. A secrets new offered possibly that event unique .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Scientists *believe* / *belief* there is a possibility that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are *exciting* / *excited* about a giant, mysterious space object that has *past* / *passed* close to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists *searching* / *search* for evidence of civilizations *beneath* / *beyond* Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described *the* / *an* object as an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-*wide* / *width*, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many straight *lines* / *line* on it for it to be formed naturally. This suggests it could have been designed *of* / *by* some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have *dabbed* / *dubbed* the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first *spots* / *spotted* Oumuamua in October. It was travelling *at* / *on* great speed through the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times *the* / *a* distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's *breadth* / *breed* relative to the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the *polar* / *solar* system that appears to originate from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational *push* / *pull* of the Sun and is instead *travelling* / *travel* on its own path that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was *highly* / *high* unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a *uniquely* / *unique* event that possibly offered new *secrecy* / *secrets*.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Sc__nt_sts b_l__v_ th_r_ _s_ _p_ss_b_l_ty th_t _l__ns
r l_st_n_ng t_ _s_ _n_ _rth. _str_n_m_rs fr_m_ _
pr_gr_m c_ll_d Br__kthr__gh L_st_n_r_ _xc_t_d_b__t
_g__nt, myst_r__s sp_c_ _bj_ct th_t h_s p_ss_d
cl_s_ t_ _r pl_nt. Br__kthr__gh L_st_n sc__nt_sts
s__rch f_r_ _v_d_nc_ _f c_v_l_z_t__ns b_y_nd __rth.
Th_ sc__nt_sts wrk_ _t th_ _n_v_rs_ty _f H_w___.
Th_y d_scr_b_d th_ _bj_ct _s_ _n 800-m_t_r-l_ng, 80-
m_t_r-w_d_, c_g_r-sh_p_d_r_ck. S_m_ sc__nt_sts
b_l__v_ th_r_ck h_s t__m_ny str__ght l_n_s _n_t f_r
_t t_b_f_rm_d n_t_r_lly. Th_s s_gg_sts _t c__ld h_v_
b__n_d_s_gn_d by s_m_ f_rm_ _f_xtr_-t_rr_str__l_l_f_.
Th_ sc__nt_sts h_v_ d_bb_d th_ r_ck __m__m__,
wh_ch m__ns 'f_rst m_ss_ng_r' _n th_ H_w____n
l_ng__g_.

Th_ _str_n_m_rs f_rst sp_tt_d __m__m__ _n_ct_b_r.
_t w_s tr_v_ll_ng _t gr__t sp__d thr__gh th_ s_l_r
syst_m _nd p_ss_d __rth _t _b__t 85 t_m_s th_
d_st_nc_ t_ th_ M__n. Th_s _s j_st _h__r's br__dth
r_l_t_v_ t_ th_ v_st _xp_ns_s _f th_ _n_v_rs_.
__m__m__ _s th_ f_rst _bj_ct sp_tt_d _n th_ s_l_r
syst_m th_t _pp__rs t_ _r_g_n_t fr_m_n th_r st_r
syst_m. Th_ _str_n_m_rs s_y_ts h_gh sp__d _f_v_r
300,000 kph s_gg_sts _t_s __ts_d th_ gr_v_t_t_n_l
p_ll _f th_ S_n _nd_s _nst__d tr_v_ll_ng _n_ts _wn
p_th th_t _r_g_n_t_d _n _n_th_r g_l_xy. Th_
sc__nt_sts s__d _t w_s h_ghly _nl_k_ly th_t __m__m__
w_s _s_gn th_t _l__ns _x_st, b_t th_ h_g_r_ck _nd
_ts j__rn_y w_s _ _n_q__ _v_nt th_t p_ss_bly _ff_r_d
n_w s_cr_ts.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

scientists believe there is a possibility that aliens are listening to us on earth astronomers from a program called breakthrough listen are excited about a giant mysterious space object that has passed close to our planet breakthrough listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations beyond earth the scientists work at the university of hawaii they described the object as an 800-meter-long 80-meter-wide cigar-shaped rock some scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to be formed naturally this suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life the scientists have dubbed the rock oumuamua which means 'first messenger' in the hawaiian language

the astronomers first spotted oumuamua in october it was travelling at great speed through the solar system and passed earth at about 85 times the distance to the moon this is just a hair's breadth relative to the vast expanses of the universe oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to originate from another star system the astronomers say its high speed of over 300000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the sun and is instead travelling on its own path that originated in another galaxy the scientists said it was highly unlikely that oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist but the huge rock and its journey was a unique event that possibly offered new secrets

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Scientists believe there is a possibility that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are excited about a giant, mysterious space object that has passed close to our plane. Breakthrough Listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described the object as an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to be formed naturally. This suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have dubbed the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language. The astronomer first spotted Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at great speed through the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's breadth relative to the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to originate from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the Sun and is instead travelling on its own path that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a unique event that possibly offered new secrets.

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

Write about **space objects** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object.html>

How would our life change if aliens visited us? Would it be good or bad? Why?

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SPACE OBJECTS: Make a poster about space objects. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ALIENS: Write a magazine article about spending lots of money on research into alien life. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on aliens. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what we should do if aliens visited us on Earth. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. c 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. g 7. d
8. m 9. k 10. n 11. h 12. j 13. i 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a T b T c F d F e F f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. possibility | a. chance |
| 2. mysterious | b. puzzling |
| 3. evidence | c. proof |
| 4. formed | d. made |
| 5. dubbed | e. nicknamed |
| 6. spotted | f. noticed |
| 7. relative | g. comparable |
| 8. vast | h. huge |
| 9. originated | i. emerged |
| 10. unique | j. singular |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Breakthrough Listen
2. Civilizations beyond Earth
3. 80 metres
4. Straight lines
5. First Messenger
6. In October
7. 85
8. Over 300,000 kph
9. The Sun
10. New secrets

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)