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**Level 5 – 29th December, 2019**

## **Satellites may obscure our views of the stars**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-5.html>

Astronomers are worried that our view of the sky is becoming more obscured. Their warning is because of thousands of satellites being launched into orbit in 2020. These will provide high-speed Internet across the world from space. The scientists say space will be so littered with satellites they will compete with the stars for our attention. The satellites will form "mega-constellations" that could get in the way of radio astronomy and affect the quality of images from telescopes. The astronomers said the satellites will appear as dazzling white streaks of light. These could be mistaken for stars.

Experts say there are plans to launch over 46,000 satellites into space in the next few years. This is five times more than the number of objects in space since the launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957, six decades ago. The new satellites will provide much faster Internet speeds and greater connectivity to even the remotest areas of the world. Today, about 14 million Americans live in rural areas with zero Internet coverage. SpaceX will launch 120 satellites in January and a further 12,000 in the next decade. Astrophysicist Dr Dave Clements called the initiative a "tragedy".

Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/14/spacex-oneweb-and-amazon-to-launch-thousands-more-satellites-in-2020s.html>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-50870117>  
[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/First\\_launch\\_of\\_UKs\\_OneWeb\\_satellites\\_from\\_Baikonur\\_now\\_set\\_for\\_30\\_Jan\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/First_launch_of_UKs_OneWeb_satellites_from_Baikonur_now_set_for_30_Jan_999.html)

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. our view of the sky is becoming | a. orbit                 |
| 2. launched into                   | b. streaks of light      |
| 3. space will be so littered with  | c. of radio astronomy    |
| 4. the satellites will form        | d. mistaken for stars    |
| 5. get in the way                  | e. with satellites       |
| 6. affect the quality of images    | f. more obscured         |
| 7. dazzling white                  | g. "mega-constellations" |
| 8. These could be                  | h. from telescopes       |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. in the next                    | a. of the world    |
| 2. greater                        | b. the next decade |
| 3. the remotest areas             | c. areas           |
| 4. rural                          | d. a "tragedy"     |
| 5. zero Internet                  | e. 120 satellites  |
| 6. SpaceX will launch             | f. connectivity    |
| 7. a further 12,000 in            | g. few years       |
| 8. Clements called the initiative | h. coverage        |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-5.html>

Astronomers are worried (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the sky is becoming more obscured. Their warning is because of thousands of satellites being (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2020. These will provide high-speed Internet across the world from space. The scientists say space will (3) \_\_\_\_\_ with satellites they will compete with the stars for our attention. The satellites will form "mega-constellations" that could get in (4) \_\_\_\_\_ radio astronomy and affect the quality of images from telescopes. The astronomers said the satellites will appear as (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of light. These could be (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Experts say there are (7) \_\_\_\_\_ over 46,000 satellites into space in the next few years. This is five times more (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of objects in space since the launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957, six decades ago. The new satellites (9) \_\_\_\_\_ faster Internet speeds and (10) \_\_\_\_\_ even the remotest areas of the world. Today, about 14 million Americans live in rural areas with (11) \_\_\_\_\_. SpaceX will launch 120 satellites in January and a further 12,000 in the next decade. Astrophysicist Dr Dave Clements called the (12) \_\_\_\_\_.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-5.html>

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# SATELLITES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about satellites 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

