

Sequence III : Life on other planets?

Reading comprehension

Pronunciation

Word Building

Grammar

Writing



A. Reading Comprehension

Read this text then do the activities

Life on other planets?



If there are living creatures on other planets, what are they like? Scientists who try to answer this question are called astrobiologists.

Some years ago, life on other planets seemed very unlikely. Astronauts had visited the Moon and had found no life on its surface. There were other reasons too: some planets are extremely cold; others are very hot, so they must be lifeless. Most planets have no water on the surface while some have a toxic atmosphere or no atmosphere at all.

However, in the 1990s, they discovered microbes that live under the Earth's surface in temperatures of 160°C . Scientists discovered some interesting species on our planet, Earth. They found worms that can live in ice, and

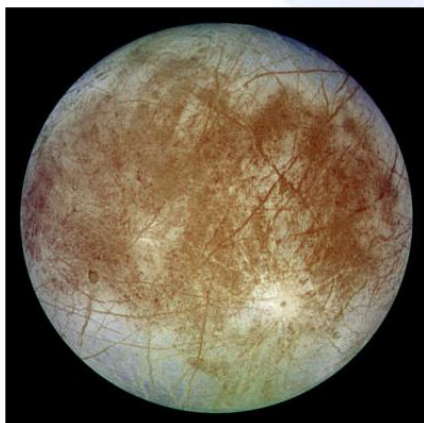
deep-sea animals that eat only “toxic” chemicals. So we know things that can live in very hot, cold or “toxic” conditions, and they may not be on the surface.

Scientists now think species like these may live on some other planets or moons, perhaps under the surface. The question is: which planets or moons?



One possibility is Mars which is the most similar planet to earth. It is cold, but not as cold as many other planets. Scientists think there might be microbes on or under its surface.

Some other possibilities are the moons of Jupiter. It is the biggest planet in our solar system and it has at least 16 moons.



One of these moons called Europa has a lot of water. There may even be oceans under its surface of ice. If there are oceans, does anything live in them? It will be a long time before we know the answer to this question.

Activity 1:

How many paragraphs are there in this text?

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Activity 2:

Answer these questions

1. “ Some years ago, life on other planets seemed very unlikely.” How many reasons are given? List them.

.....
.....

2. What did scientists discover in very cold, very hot and toxic conditions?

.....
.....

3. Why were these discoveries important?

.....
.....

4. What makes Europa a possible home for living things?

.....
.....

Activity 3:

Choose the best answer (a, b or c)

1. Unlikely means:

a) possible b) improbable c) certainly

2. Toxic means:

a) noxious b) harmless c) dry

3. A species is a group having
- a) different characteristics
 - b) various characteristics
 - c) common characteristics

4. Similar means:

- a) identical
- b) different
- c) nearest

Activity 4:

Scientists made amazing discoveries about our planet, Earth. In which paragraph is this mentioned?

.....

Activity 5:

What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

- ... others are very hot. →
- ... under its surface →
- ... it has at least →
- ... live in them →

B. Pronunciation

* Shift of stress

Most of the time there is a shift of stress in pairs of words: noun / adjective - verb / noun - noun / noun
e.g.:

Noun	Adjective
'paradox i'ntellect	para'doxical inte'llectual

Verb	Noun
in'vite 'mediate	invi'tation medi'ation

Noun	Noun
'benefactor 'music	bene'faction mu'sician

Activity 1:

Mark the stressed syllable in each pair of words:

/ advertising - advertisement / interrogate - interrogation /
/ labor - laborious / democracy- democratic /
/ analyst – analysis / instrument – instrumental /
/ converse – conversation / relax / relaxation /

Activity 2:

Classify these words in activity 1 according to their function (noun - verb / noun – noun / noun - adjective:

Noun	Verb
.....
.....
.....

Noun	Noun
.....
.....

Noun	Adjective
.....
.....
.....

C. Word - Building

* We can form nouns from verbs using suffixes such as:
ion – ment - ance – ing –dom- ty – age- al - ism

e.g.: to generate → generation
to agree → agreement

Activity 1:

Form nouns from these verbs.

Verbs	Nouns
free
convey
leak
arrive
believe
deprave
build
bore
maintain
integrate
pave
prove

Activity 2:

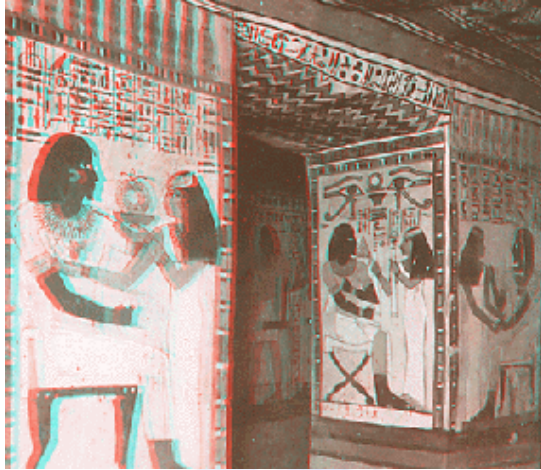
Complete each sentence with the right noun derived from the verbs in this box

demonstrate – amaze - secure – settle – irrigate - repent –
exist - relieve

1. He showed great for his bad behaviour, but she refused to forgive him.
2. Do you believe in the of ghosts?
3. She had a sigh of when she was told that the child's life was not in danger.
4. There was an important against the rising cost of living; thousands of people marched through the streets with banners.
5. Children who lack the of parental care may turn into delinquents.
6. Everybody hopes for a lasting of all these troubles in the area.
7. In areas where rains are scarce, is necessary to grow crops.
8. Everybody hopes for a lasting of all these troubles in the area.

Activity 3

Complete the gaps with nouns derived from the verbs in brackets



To the people of ancient Egypt, (to live) on earth was short. (to die), however, was eternal. This is why they used stone for the (to build) of their tombs and they took their (possess) with them into another world.

The Pharaohs were the (to rule) of the country and when they died they became gods. Their tombs are the pyramids which purpose was the (to protect) of the (to bury) chamber from the weather and from thieves.



Their (to situate) on the west bank of the River Nile was where the sun set everyday and where it began its journey into the other world, according to the Egyptians (to believe)

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D. Grammar

1- The Conditionals

Type 1: Probability

If + Present / Future

e.g.: If you **listen to** me carefully, you **will understand**.
If you **invest in** that business, you **will lose** your money.

Type 2: Hypothetical but possible

We imagine a situation which does not exist really.

If + Past / Conditional present

e.g.: If the teacher **spoke** more slowly, we **would understand**.
(= he doesn't speak slowly, so we don't understand.)

Type 3: Hypothetical and impossible

If + Past Perfect / Conditional perfect

e.g.: If the car **hadn't broken** down, we **would have arrived on time**.
(= The car broke down, so we didn't arrive on time.)

Activity 1:

Match the two parts of the sentences to make coherent statements.

1. If people drove their cars less,	a. they would send us signals.
2. If the other planets were similar to Earth,	b. we would reduce the amount of acid rain.
3. If power stations stopped giving off toxic gases,	c. pollution levels would fall.
4. If there were living creatures in space,	d. our planet would be less crowded.
5. If human beings went to live on Europa,	e. they would be inhabited.

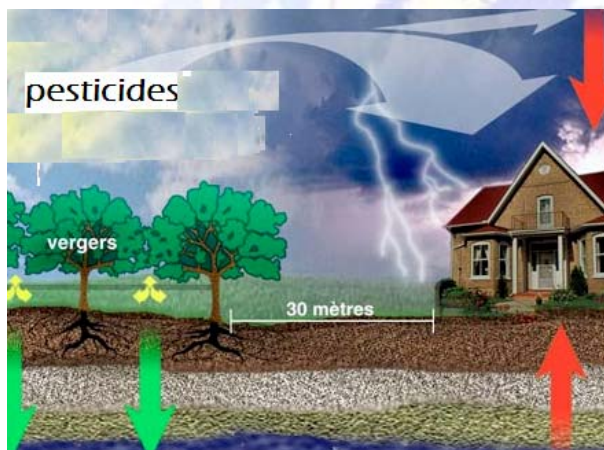
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Activity 2:

Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense

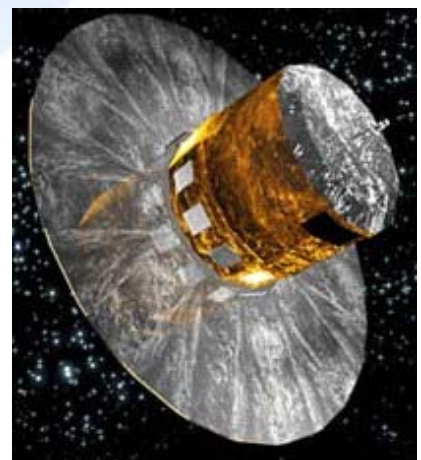


1. If we didn't waste water, there (be) enough for everybody



2. Our health would be in danger if farmers (continue) to use pesticides in agriculture.

3. If Gaia satellite is sent in space, it (enable) scientists to gather more information about our galaxy.





4. We wouldn't have been able to observe such wonderful images of Mars if Mars Exploration Rovers (not be) sent in July 2003



5. If man (not protect) forests, there will be an ecological disaster.

6. If he (not take) safety measures, radiations would contaminate him.



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7. Tourists in Death Valley will break the salty surface if they (not walk) carefully.



8. If they hadn't discovered oil in this area, they (not build) a derrick there.



Activity 3:

Rewrite these sentences using “if”

Remember!

◆ When the verbs are in the **present** or **future** tenses, we use **type 2** in the transformation.

◆ When the verbs are in the **past**, we use **type 3**.

The verb that is affirmative becomes negative, and the verb that is negative becomes affirmative.



e.g.: I **don't** speak English, so I **don't** understand them.
If I **spoke** English, I **would** understand them.

e.g.: He **didn't** get up early, so he **missed** his train to London.
If he **had got up** earlier, he **wouldn't have missed** his train to London.





"Jim, you aren't welcome around here anymore. You're fired!"

1. a) He made a professional mistake, so they fired him.

b) If he
.....
.....

2. a) Factories release toxic gases, that's why air is polluted.

b) If
.....
.....

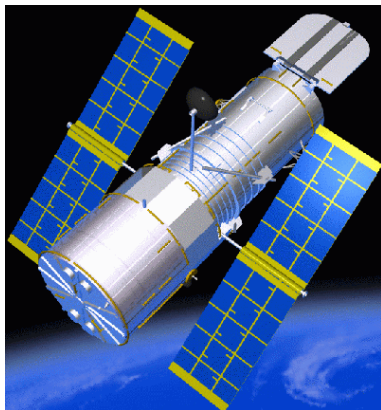


The polar ice cap is melting



3. a) The polar ice-caps melt, so the sea-level rises in many places.

b) If
.....
.....



4. a) They invented powerful telescopes; as a result they were able to make new discoveries.

b) If
.....
.....

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5. a) Some people live in remote places, so there is an air ambulance service for the sick.

b) If

2- Expressing possibility

We use **MAY or MIGHT + infinitive** (without to) to express the possibility that something will happen.

e.g.: Some species **may** live on other planets.

There **might be** microbes under the surface of Mars.

Activity 4

Complete each sentence using may or might and the appropriate verb

come – win – happen – demonstrate – send – run – elect –
flood – discover – become

1. That job seems interesting; I my application tomorrow.
2. Some islands disappear from the surface of our planet.
3. Clint Eastwoodan Oscar as a director for his last film.
4. She a teacher; she likes working with kids.
5. Citizens against the rise in the bread price.
6. We out of petrol; the road is too long.
7. from her accent, she from South America.
- 8.They him to the Academy.
9. Astronomers new planets and galaxies.
10. More disasters..... in the future because of pollution.

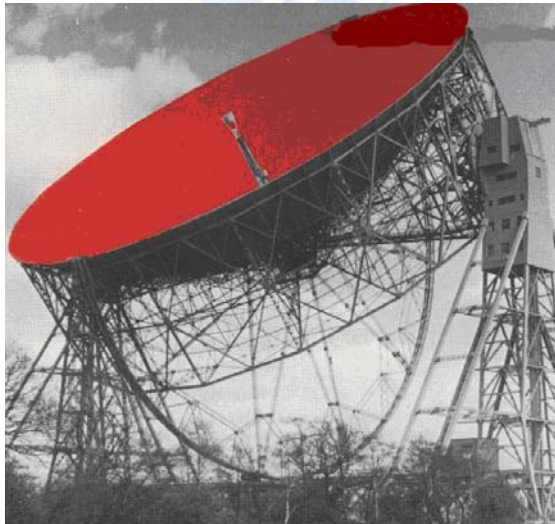
E. Writing

Activity 1

Fill in each gap with the correct word chosen from the box

true-type - the - sending- one - pollution- were - most - built

The first astronomical telescope was invented in 1609 by Galileo. In 1668, Sir Isaac Newton invented a new of telescope which used mirrors.



In the 1950's, radio telescopes widely used. The largest which was completed in 1963 is the Arecibo dish in Puerto Rico.

The biggest and powerful reflector telescope is the Keck on the top of Mauna Kea in Hawaii.





Even telescopes on top of mountains are influenced by the atmosphere and of the Earth.

In 1990 a dream came as the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) was launched. It is orbiting the Earth and back images from space.

Activity 2

In 1974 the Arecibo telescope sent out a message to any living creatures in space. It described our planet and civilization. What do you think the message said?

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.....

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