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Level 1 – 16th February 2023

White House says no aliens in weather balloons

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-1.html>

Strange things are happening in the sky above the USA. Fighter jets have shot down four balloons. Officials said the balloons were a danger to airplanes. They were flying at an altitude of around 12,200 metres. The White House said the balloons were not linked to aliens. A spokesperson said: "I don't think the American people need to worry about aliens with respect to these crafts." Earlier, an official said aliens could not be counted out.

The USA and China sent each other tit-for-tat messages. The US believes the balloons are spy balloons. There is no proof of this. Experts are looking at the electronics from the balloons. China said the balloons were for tracking weather, not for spying. Beijing said American balloons have flown in China's airspace over ten times in the past year. The USA said this was untrue. The US Secretary of State cancelled a visit to China because of the balloons.

Sources: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-14/spy-balloon-alien-white-house-china-surveillance-aircraft/101969384>
<https://theconversation.com/no-indication-of-aliens-spy-balloon-saga-continues-to-surprise-amid-rising-us-china-tension-199769>
<https://english.news.cn/20230205/fbbeecffa7ff48119880de4170d97495/c.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Strange things are | a. linked to aliens |
| 2. in the sky | b. to these crafts |
| 3. flying at an altitude of around | c. aliens |
| 4. the balloons were not | d. out |
| 5. I don't think the American people | e. above the USA |
| 6. worry about | f. 12,200 metres |
| 7. with respect | g. happening |
| 8. aliens could not be counted | h. need to |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. sent each other tit-for-tat | a. to China |
| 2. spy | b. of this |
| 3. There is no proof | c. weather |
| 4. Experts are looking | d. in the past year |
| 5. the balloons were for tracking | e. balloons |
| 6. balloons have flown | f. at the electronics |
| 7. over ten times | g. in China's airspace |
| 8. cancelled a visit | h. messages |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-1.html>

Strange things are happening in (1) _____ the USA. Fighter (2) _____ down four balloons. Officials said the balloons were a danger to airplanes. They were (3) _____ altitude of around 12,200 metres. The White House said the balloons were (4) _____ aliens. A spokesperson said: "I don't think the American people need to worry about aliens with (5) _____ crafts." Earlier, an official said aliens could not (6) _____.

The USA and China sent each (7) _____ messages. The US believes the balloons (8) _____. There is no (9) _____. Experts are looking at the electronics from the balloons. China said the balloons were for tracking weather, (10) _____. Beijing said American balloons have flown in China's airspace over ten times in the past year. The USA said (11) _____. The US Secretary of State cancelled (12) _____ China because of the balloons.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-1.html>

StrangethingsarehappeningintheskyabovetheUSA.Fighterjetshave
shotdownfourballoons.Officialssaidtheballoonswereadangertoairpl
anes.Theywereflyingatanaltitudeofaround12,200metres.TheWhite
Housesaidtheballoonswerenotlinkedtoaliens.Aspokespersonsaid:"I
don'tthinktheAmericanpeopleneedtoworryaboutalienswithrespectt
otheseecrafts."Earlier,anofficialsaidalienscouldnotbecountedout.The
USAandChinasenteachothertit-for-tatmessages.TheUSbelievesth
eballoonsarespyballoons.Thereisnoprooffofthis.Expertsarelookingat
theelectronicsfromtheballoons.Chinasaidtheballoonswerefortrackin
gweather,notforspying.BeijingsaidAmericanballoonshaveflowninCh
ina'sairspaceovertentimesinthepastyear.TheUSAidthiswasuntrue
.TheUSSecretaryofStatecancelledavisittoChinabecauseoftheballoo
ns.

BALLOONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about balloons 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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-1.html>

Write about **balloons** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
