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Level 5

Mysterious space object could be monitoring us

16th December, 2017

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object-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/1712/171216-space-object-5.html>

Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen believe that aliens could be listening to us on Earth. Breakthrough Listen searches for evidence of alien life beyond Earth. The scientists are excited about a giant, mysterious space object that has just passed Earth. The object is an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to come from nature. This suggests it could have been made by extra-terrestrial life. The scientists called the rock Oumuamua, which means 'messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua as it travelled at great speed through our solar system. It passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is very near, relative to how big the universe is. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in our solar system that appears to come from another galaxy. Its high speed of 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the Sun. It is travelling on its own path. The scientists said it was unlikely that Oumuamua was proof that aliens exist. The huge rock and its journey is a unique event that could offer 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/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Astronomers from a | a. rock Oumuamua |
| 2. aliens could be | b. program |
| 3. searches for evidence of alien | c. Hawaiian language |
| 4. a giant, mysterious space | d. straight lines |
| 5. the rock has too many | e. life beyond Earth |
| 6. it could have been made by | f. object |
| 7. The scientists called the | g. listening to us |
| 8. which means 'messenger' in the | h. extra-terrestrial life |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. it travelled at great speed through | a. was unlikely |
| 2. about 85 times the distance | b. pull of the Sun |
| 3. the first object spotted | c. new secrets |
| 4. it is outside the gravitational | d. to the Moon |
| 5. It is travelling | e. aliens exist |
| 6. The scientists said it | f. in our solar system |
| 7. proof that | g. our solar system |
| 8. a unique event that could offer | h. on its own path |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object-5.html>

Astronomers (1) _____ called Breakthrough Listen believe that aliens could be listening to us on Earth. Breakthrough Listen searches for (2) _____ life beyond Earth. The scientists are excited about a giant, mysterious (3) _____ has just passed Earth. The object is an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, (4) _____. Scientists believe the rock has too many straight (5) _____ for it to come from nature. This suggests it could have been made by extra-terrestrial life. The scientists (6) _____ Oumuamua, which means 'messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua as it (7) _____ speed through (8) _____. It passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is very near, (9) _____ big the universe is. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in our solar system that (10) _____ from another galaxy. Its high speed of 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the Sun. It is travelling on (11) _____. The scientists said it was unlikely that Oumuamua was proof that aliens exist. The huge rock and its journey is a unique event that could (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-space-object-5.html>

Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen believe that aliens could be listening to us on Earth. Breakthrough Listen searches for evidence of alien life beyond Earth. The scientists are excited about a giant, mysterious space object that has just passed Earth. The object is an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to come from nature. This suggests it could have been made by extra-terrestrial life. The scientists called the rock Oumuamua, which means 'messenger' in the Hawaiian language. The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua as it travelled at great speed through our solar system. It passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is very near, relative to how big the universe is. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in our solar system that appears to come from another galaxy. Its high speed of 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the Sun. It is travelling on its own path. The scientists said it was unlikely that Oumuamua was proof that aliens exist. The huge rock and its journey is a unique event that could offer new secrets.

SPACE OBJECTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1712/171216-4.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.

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) _____

