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Level 4 – 21st April 2025

Scientists find possible alien life in outer space

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250421-exoplanet-k2-18b-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250421-exoplanet-k2-18b-4.html>

Scientists are closer to knowing if we are alone. For centuries, they have looked into space for signs of alien life. Now, astronomers say they have detected two chemicals that provide the conditions for life. One scientist said the chemicals represent the potential fingerprints of life. On Earth, these chemicals are only produced by microorganisms. The chemicals are "the most promising signs yet" of life.

The chemicals were found on a planet called K2-18b. This is about 124 light years from Earth. A scientist believes the planet might be a Hycean planet. This is a planet covered in water. The scientist said a Hycean world has an ocean "that is teeming with life". He said the data from K2-18b "fits" that kind of world. However, he was only 99.7% sure of that. He said he needed to be 99.99994% certain to be sure that we are not alone.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/04/17/science/k218b-potential-biosignature-webb/index.html>
<https://www.space.com/the-universe/exoplanets/possible-signs-of-alien-life-found-on-nearby-exoplanet-study-reports>
<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/news/k2-18b-dimethyl-sulfide>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250421-exoplanet-k2-18b-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Scientists are closer | a. of life |
| 2. they have looked into | b. life |
| 3. signs of alien | c. signs yet |
| 4. detected | d. space |
| 5. provide the conditions | e. by microorganisms |
| 6. the potential fingerprints | f. for life |
| 7. these chemicals are only produced | g. to knowing |
| 8. the most promising | h. two chemicals |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The chemicals were | a. kind of world |
| 2. This is about 124 light | b. in water |
| 3. the planet might | c. sure of that |
| 4. a planet covered | d. years from Earth |
| 5. an ocean that is teeming | e. are not alone |
| 6. data from K2-18b fits that | f. be a Hycean planet |
| 7. he was only 99.7% | g. with life |
| 8. sure that we | h. found on a planet |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250421-exoplanet-k2-18b-4.html>

Scientists are (1) _____ if we are alone. For centuries, they have looked into space for (2) _____ life. Now, astronomers say they have detected two chemicals (3) _____ conditions for life. One scientist said the chemicals (4) _____ fingerprints of life. On Earth, (5) _____ only produced by microorganisms. The chemicals are "the most (6) _____" of life.

The chemicals were found on (7) _____ K2-18b. This is about 124 light years from Earth. A (8) _____ planet might be a Hycean planet. This is a planet (9) _____. The scientist said a Hycean world has an ocean "that is (10) _____". He said the data from K2-18b (11) _____ of world. However, he was only 99.7% sure of that. He said he needed to be 99.99994% certain to (12) _____ we are not alone.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250421-exoplanet-k2-18b-4.html>

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ALIEN LIFE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2504/250421-exoplanet-k2-18b-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about alien life 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) _____

