

# www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

[www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

**Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites**

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

## **Level 2**

### **Vegetable gardens tested for Mars**

**10th October, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-2.html>

### **Contents**

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

**Google +**



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-2.html>

Scientists from NASA want to get humans to Mars. Researchers are currently trying to find out what plants can grow in the soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will grow their own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them to last for the journey. They will never be able to come back to Earth. This means they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables, etc. from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It just has red dust.

Humans could be on Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing "Martian gardens" to see what might grow on Mars. They used a soil made of crushed volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to the dust on Mars. The scientists grew lettuce in it. The lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker roots and took longer to grow. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology development in terms of reliable, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

Sources: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2016/1006/NASA-s-Martian-gardens-What-kinds-of-veggies-can-we-grow-on-Mars>  
<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/181178/20161007/martian-gardens-key-to-surviving-mars-colonization-nasa.htm>  
<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/29858/20161008/survival-in-mars-nasa-scientists-developing-martian-garden.htm>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Scientists from NASA want to get       | a. in the soil on Mars   |
| 2. Researchers are currently              | b. lot of food with them |
| 3. plants can grow                        | c. two-and-a-half years  |
| 4. astronauts will grow                   | d. for growing things    |
| 5. The journey to Mars could take         | e. humans to Mars        |
| 6. take a                                 | f. their own food        |
| 7. grow their own fruit, vegetables, etc. | g. trying to find out    |
| 8. Mars doesn't have soil that is good    | h. from seeds            |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Humans could be on Mars in the   | a. on Mars             |
| 2. see what might                   | b. volcanic rock       |
| 3. They used a soil made of crushed | c. for future studies  |
| 4. It contains no nutrients         | d. normal              |
| 5. it is similar to the dust        | e. grow on Mars        |
| 6. The lettuce tasted               | f. production          |
| 7. pave the way                     | g. next 15 years       |
| 8. efficient food                   | h. or organic material |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-2.html>

Scientists from NASA (1) \_\_\_\_\_ humans to Mars. Researchers are currently trying (2) \_\_\_\_\_ plants can grow in the soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will grow (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take two-and-a-half years. The astronauts (4) \_\_\_\_\_ take a lot of food with them to last for the journey. They will never be able to come back to Earth. This means they will need to grow (5) \_\_\_\_\_, vegetables, etc. from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil (6) \_\_\_\_\_ growing things. It just has red dust.

Humans (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing "Martian gardens" (8) \_\_\_\_\_ grow on Mars. They used a soil made of crushed volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to the dust on Mars. The scientists grew lettuce in it. The lettuce tasted normal, (10) \_\_\_\_\_ roots and took longer to grow. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will (11) \_\_\_\_\_ for future studies and technology development in (12) \_\_\_\_\_, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-2.html>

Scientists from NASA want to get humans to Mars. Researchers are recurrently trying to find out what plants can grow in the soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will grow their own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them to last for the journey. They will never be able to come back to Earth. This means they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables, etc. from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It just has red dust. Humans could be on Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing "Mars gardens" to see what might grow on Mars. They used a soil made of crushed volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to the dust on Mars. The scientists grew lettuce in it. The lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker roots and took longer to grow. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Mars gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology development in terms of reliable, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

# VEGETABLE GARDENS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vegetable gardens 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) \_\_\_\_\_

*Vegetable gardens tested for Mars – 10th October, 2016*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

---

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

