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Level 3 – 16th February 2023

White House says no aliens in weather balloons

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

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

Strange goings-on are happening in the skies above North America. This month, US fighter jets have shot down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the objects were balloons that were causing a danger to airplanes. They were flying at an altitude of around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday that there were no signs the objects were linked to alien life. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American people need to worry about aliens with respect to these crafts." Earlier in the week, a US official said aliens could not be counted out as a possible explanation for the balloons.

The balloon saga has created tit-for-tat exchanges between the USA and China. US officials suspect the balloons were being used for spying. However, they have no proof of this. Rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off the US coast. Experts are currently looking at the electronics they have found. China said the balloons were for tracking weather patterns. It has denied they were spy balloons. Beijing has claimed that US high-altitude balloons have flown in China's airspace without permission more than ten times in the past year. The White House said this was untrue. A balloon shooting in early February resulted in US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a visit to China.

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>

WARM-UPS

1. BALLOONS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about balloons. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

strange / skies / North America / UFO / flying / airplanes / aliens / life / balloons
tit-for-tat / spying / rescue / coast / experts / electronics / weather / the past / China

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ALIENS: Students A **strongly** believe aliens exist; Students B **strongly** believe aliens do not exist. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ALIEN LANDING: If aliens landed on Earth, what should we show them? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What?	Why?
Food		
Famous sight		
A building		
A sport		
A concert		
Technology		

5. BALLOON: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "balloon". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. WEATHER: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst weather at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Boiling hot
- Raining cats and dogs
- Heavy snow
- Strong winds
- Freezing cold
- Overcast and cloudy
- Stormy
- Foggy

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. goings-on | a. Regarding; as regards; with reference to. |
| 2. unidentified | b. A thing that can be seen and touched. |
| 3. object | c. Not recognized or known. |
| 4. altitude | d. Not included something in something else. |
| 5. with respect to | e. Events or behaviour, especially of an unusual or suspect nature. |
| 6. craft | f. The height of an object or point above sea level or ground level. |
| 7. counted out | g. A boat, ship, aircraft or spaceship. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. saga | h. Something that shows that a fact is true. |
| 9. tit-for-tat | i. Following the movements of someone or something to find out about their course. |
| 10. suspect | j. The parts of something that was destroyed that fell across a wide area. |
| 11. proof | k. One bad action following another bad action. |
| 12. debris | l. The action of allowing someone to do something. |
| 13. tracking | m. A long, involved story, account, or series of incidents. |
| 14. permission | n. Think something is true, but not being 100% sure. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article said there were comings and goings in the sky above the US. **T / F**
2. The acronym "UFO" means Uninvited Flying Object. **T / F**
3. The balloons were at a height of over 12,000 metres. **T / F**
4. A National Security Spokesperson was worried about aliens. **T / F**
5. The USA believes the balloons may have been used for spying. **T / F**
6. Rescue teams are looking for the balloons, but have not found any. **T / F**
7. China says the balloons were used for monitoring the weather. **T / F**
8. China accused the US of flying balloons in Chinese airspace. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. goings-on | a. story |
| 2. danger | b. reason |
| 3. altitude | c. risk |
| 4. linked | d. led to |
| 5. explanation | e. connected |
| 6. saga | f. evidence |
| 7. suspect | g. events |
| 8. proof | h. following |
| 9. tracking | i. think |
| 10. resulted in | j. height |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Strange | a. debris |
| 2. fighter | b. of around 40,000 feet |
| 3. They were flying at an altitude | c. weather patterns |
| 4. the objects were linked | d. jets |
| 5. I don't think the American people | e. exchanges |
| 6. The balloon saga has created tit-for-tat | f. to China |
| 7. they have no proof | g. goings-on |
| 8. Rescue teams have gathered | h. need to worry |
| 9. the balloons were for tracking | i. of this |
| 10. cancelling a visit | j. to alien life |

GAP FILL

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

Strange (1) _____ are happening in the skies above North America. This month, US fighter jets have (2) _____ down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the objects were balloons that were (3) _____ a danger to airplanes. They were (4) _____ at an altitude of around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday that there were no (5) _____ the objects were linked to alien (6) _____. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American people need to worry about aliens with (7) _____ to these crafts." Earlier in the week, a US official said aliens could not be counted out as a (8) _____ explanation for the balloons.

life
causing
possible
goings-on
signs
respect
shot
flying

The balloon saga has created tit-for-tat (9) _____ between the USA and China. US officials (10) _____ the balloons were being used for spying. However, they have no (11) _____ of this. Rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off the US (12) _____. Experts are currently looking at the electronics they have found. China said the balloons were for (13) _____ weather patterns. It has denied they were spy balloons. Beijing has claimed that US high-(14) _____ balloons have flown in China's airspace without permission more than ten times in the past year. The White House said this was (15) _____. A balloon shooting in early February resulted in US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a (16) _____ to China.

proof
altitude
exchanges
visit
coast
untrue
suspect
tracking

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Strange goings-on are happening in _____
 - a. the skies above
 - b. the skies alive
 - c. the skies a buff
 - d. the sky's a buzz
- 2) jets have shot down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US _____
 - a. and Canadian airs space
 - b. and Canadian airs pace
 - c. and Canadian airs paced
 - d. and Canadian airspace
- 3) The White House said yesterday that there were no signs the objects were linked _____
 - a. to alien lifer
 - b. to alien alive
 - c. to alien life
 - d. to alien live
- 4) I don't think the American people need to worry about aliens with respect _____
 - a. to them crafts
 - b. to this crafts
 - c. to trees crafts
 - d. to these crafts
- 5) a US official said aliens could not be counted out as _____
 - a. a possible explanation
 - b. a possibly explanation
 - c. a posse ball explanation
 - d. a possibility explanation
- 6) The balloon saga has created tit-_____
 - a. for-tat exchange is
 - b. for-tat exchanges
 - c. for-tat exchangers
 - d. for-tat ex change is
- 7) officials suspect the balloons were being used for spying. However, they have no _____
 - a. prove of this
 - b. poof of this
 - c. probe of this
 - d. proof of this
- 8) Rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off _____
 - a. the US cost
 - b. the US cast
 - c. the US coast
 - d. the US coats
- 9) US high-altitude balloons have flown in China's _____
 - a. airspace within permission
 - b. airspace wither permission
 - c. airspace without permission
 - d. airspace withered permission
- 10) resulted in US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a _____
 - a. visitor China
 - b. visit to China
 - c. visit on China
 - d. visit of China

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Strange goings-on are happening in (1) _____ North America. This month, US fighter (2) _____ down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the objects were balloons that were (3) _____ to airplanes. They were flying at an altitude of around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday that there were no signs the (4) _____ to alien life. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American people need to worry about (5) _____ to these crafts." Earlier in the week, a US official said aliens could not be counted out (6) _____ explanation for the balloons.

The balloon (7) _____ tit-for-tat exchanges between the USA and China. US officials suspect the balloons were being used for spying. However, they have (8) _____ this. Rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off the US coast. Experts (9) _____ at the electronics they have found. China said the balloons were for tracking weather patterns. It has (10) _____ spy balloons. Beijing has claimed that US high-altitude balloons have flown in China's airspace without (11) _____ ten times in the past year. The White House said this was untrue. A balloon shooting in early February resulted in US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (12) _____ to China.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What does the article say is happening in the skies above N. America?
2. What does the acronym UFO mean?
3. How high were the balloons flying?
4. What did the White House say Americans need not worry about?
5. When did an official say aliens could not be counted out?
6. What kind of exchanges did the USA and China take part in?
7. What do USA officials suspect the balloons were being used for?
8. What does China say it was using the balloons for?
9. How many times did China say US balloons flew in Chinese airspace?
10. What did the US Secretary of State cancel?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What does the article say is happening in the skies above N. America?
 - a) star wars
 - b) strange goings-on
 - c) balloon wars
 - d) comings and goings
- 2) What does the acronym UFO mean?
 - a) Unidentified Floating Object
 - b) Uninvited Flying Object
 - c) Uninvited Floating Object
 - d) Unidentified Flying Object
- 3) How high were the balloons flying?
 - a) around 40,000 thumbs
 - b) around 40,000 fingers
 - c) around 40,000 feet
 - d) around 40,000 toes
- 4) What did the White House say Americans need not worry about?
 - a) aliens
 - b) money
 - c) safety
 - d) China
- 5) When did an official say aliens could not be counted out?
 - a) last week
 - b) earlier in the week
 - c) the week before last
 - d) last month
- 6) What kind of exchanges did the USA and China take part in?
 - a) tit-for-tat exchanges
 - b) money exchanges
 - c) brief exchanges
 - d) heated exchanges
- 7) What do USA officials suspect the balloons were being used for?
 - a) sightseeing tours
 - b) parties
 - c) spying
 - d) astronomy
- 8) What does China say it was using the balloons for?
 - a) tracking weather patterns
 - b) parties
 - c) flying practice
 - d) environmental research
- 9) How many times did China say US balloons flew in Chinese airspace?
 - a) seven
 - b) around eight
 - c) exactly nine
 - d) over ten
- 10) What did the US Secretary of State cancel?
 - a) his membership to a balloon club
 - b) his credit cards
 - c) a visit to China?
 - d) his plans for the evening

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Boiling Hot

You think boiling hot weather is the worst weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): freezing cold, raining cats and dogs or heavy snow.

Role B – Freezing Cold

You think freezing cold weather is the worst weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): boiling hot, raining cats and dogs or heavy snow.

Role C – Raining Cats and Dogs

You think raining cats and dogs is the worst weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): freezing cold, boiling hot or heavy snow.

Role D – Heavy Snow

You think heavy snow is the worst weather. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their weather. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): freezing cold, raining cats and dogs or boiling hot.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'alien' and 'balloon'.

alien	balloon

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• happening• danger• altitude• linked• worry• possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• saga• proof• coast• patterns• ten• early
---	---

BALLOONS SURVEY

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

BALLOONS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'alien'?
3. What do you think of aliens?
4. Why do we think aliens might exist?
5. What do you know about the balloons in the article?
6. Could the shootings increase tensions between the US and China?
7. Are you happy that the balloons had no aliens?
8. What advice do you have for the USA and China?
9. What do you think aliens look like?
10. What would aliens think of humans?

White House says no aliens in weather balloons – 16th February 2023
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BALLOONS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'balloon'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Why are relations between the USA and China not so good?
15. What do you think of spying?
16. Do you think your country spies on other countries?
17. Should weather balloons be banned?
18. Why would a country use spy balloons instead of satellites?
19. What would you do if an alien was in your house?
20. What questions would you like to ask an alien?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Strange goings-on are happening in the skies (1) _____ North America. This month, US fighter jets have shot (2) _____ four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the objects were balloons that were causing a (3) _____ to airplanes. They were flying at an altitude of around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday that there were no (4) _____ the objects were linked to alien life. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American people (5) _____ to worry about aliens with respect to these crafts." Earlier in the week, a US official said aliens could not be counted (6) _____ as a possible explanation for the balloons.

The balloon (7) _____ has created tit-for-tat exchanges between the USA and China. US officials suspect the balloons were being used (8) _____ spying. However, they have no proof of this. Rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off the US (9) _____. Experts are currently looking at the electronics they have found. China said the balloons were for tracking weather patterns. It has denied they were spy balloons. Beijing has claimed that US high-altitude balloons have (10) _____ in China's airspace without permission more than ten times in the past year. The White House said this was (11) _____. A balloon shooting in early February resulted (12) _____ US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a visit to China.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) up | (b) above | (c) higher | (d) cover |
| 2. | (a) in | (b) down | (c) on | (d) up |
| 3. | (a) endanger | (b) dangerous | (c) endangered | (d) danger |
| 4. | (a) looks | (b) signs | (c) autographs | (d) posters |
| 5. | (a) necessary | (b) needing | (c) needy | (d) need |
| 6. | (a) up | (b) on | (c) out | (d) in |
| 7. | (a) saga | (b) sage | (c) gaga | (d) MAGA |
| 8. | (a) of | (b) from | (c) for | (d) far |
| 9. | (a) toast | (b) boast | (c) roast | (d) coast |
| 10. | (a) flown | (b) fly | (c) flew | (d) flying |
| 11. | (a) untrue | (b) truly | (c) truths | (d) truthfully |
| 12. | (a) in | (b) at | (c) of | (d) by |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. US rgfthie jets
2. flying at an taudeitl of around 40,000 feet
3. signs the boesjtc were linked to alien life
4. with pcetsre to these crafts
5. a US fifiaocl
6. a possible nxiltaopena

Paragraph 2

7. tit-for-tat ghxenaesc
8. they have no foopr of this
9. gathered rdeibs from the balloons
10. It has ideden they were spy balloons
11. flown in China's airspace without psriniosem
12. neialnlcgc a visit to China

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () official said aliens could not be counted out as a possible explanation for the balloons.
- () were being used for spying. However, they have no proof of this. Rescue teams have gathered
- () to alien life. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American
- () found. China said the balloons were for tracking weather patterns. It has denied they were spy balloons. Beijing has claimed
- () February resulted in US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a visit to China.
- () than 10 times in the past year. The White House said this was untrue. A balloon shooting in early
- () The balloon saga has created tit-for-tat exchanges between the USA and China. US officials suspect the balloons
- () down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the objects
- () were balloons that were causing a danger to airplanes. They were flying at an altitude of around
- () debris from the balloons off the US coast. Experts are currently looking at the electronics they have
- () 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday that there were no signs the objects were linked
- () people need to worry about aliens with respect to these crafts." Earlier in the week, a US
- (**1**) Strange goings-on are happening in the skies above North America. This month, US fighter jets have shot
- () that US high-altitude balloons have flown in China's airspace without permission more

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. happening in Strange America . skies goings-on are above
2. that danger were a to airplanes . causing Balloons
3. life . were objects linked alien to Signs the
4. I need to think don't people American worry .
5. be can't explanation . counted out Aliens an as
6. The saga balloon exchanges . has tit-for-tat created
7. being for the balloons were used Suspect spying .
8. looking are Experts at currently the electronics .
9. balloons . spy they denied were has It
10. Balloons flown permission . have without airspace China's in

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Strange goings-on are happening *in / up* the skies above North America. This month, US fighter jets have *shot / shoot* down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the *subjects / objects* were balloons that were causing a *dangerous / danger* to airplanes. They were flying at an *attitude / altitude* of around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday *that / what* there were no signs the objects were linked to alien *living / life*. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American people *necessary / need* to worry about aliens with respect to *them / these* crafts." Earlier in the week, a US official said aliens could not be counted *out / in* as a possible explanation for the balloons.

The balloon saga has created tit-for-tat exchanges *between / among* the USA and China. US officials *suspect / suspicious* the balloons were being used for *spy / spying*. However, they have no proof *to / of* this. Rescue teams have gathered debris *from / as* the balloons off the US coast. Experts are currently looking at the *electricity / electronics* they have found. China said the balloons were for tracking *weather / whether* patterns. It has denied they were spy balloons. Beijing has claimed that US high-altitude balloons have *flown / flying* in China's airspace without permission more than ten times *in / on* the past year. The White House said this was untrue. A balloon shooting in early February resulted *on / in* US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a visit to China.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Strng_ g_ngs- _n _r_ h_pp_nng _n th_ sk__s _b_v_ N_rth _m_r_c_. Th_s m_nth, _S f_ght_r j_ts h_v_ sh_t d_wn f__r _F_s (_n_d_nt_f__d Fly_ng _bj_cts) _n _S _nd C_n_d__n __rsp_c_. _ff_c__ls s__d th_ _bj_cts w_r_ b_ll__ns th_t w_r_ c__sng _ d_ng_r t__rpl_n_s. Th_y w_r_ fly_ng _t _n _lt_t_d_ _f _r__nd 40,000 f__t (12,200 m_tr_s). Th_ Wh_t_ H__s_ s__d y_st_rdy th_t th_r_ w_r_ n_ s_gns th_ _bj_cts w_r_ l_nk_d t_ _l__n l_f_. N_t__n_l S_c_r_ty C__nc_l sp_k_sp_rs_n J_hn K_rby s__d: "_ d_n't th_nk th_ _m_r_c_n p__pl_ n__d t_ w_rry _b__t _l__ns w_th r_sp_ct t_ th_s_ cr_fts." __r_l__r _n th_ w__k, _ _S _ff_c__l s__d _l__ns c__ld n_t b_ c__nt_d __t _s _ p_ss_bl_ _xpl_n_t__n f_r th_ b_ll__ns.

Th_ b_ll__n s_g_ h_s cr__t_d t_t-f_r-t_t _xch_ng_s b_tw__n th_ _S_ _nd Ch_n_. _S _ff_c__ls s_sp_ct th_ b_ll__ns w_r_ b__ng _s_d f_r spy_ng. H_w_v_r, th_y h_v_ n_ pr__f _f th_s. R_sc__ t__ms h_v_ g_th_r_d d_br_s fr_m th_ b_ll__ns _ff th_ _S c__st. _xp_rts _r_ c_rr_ntly l__k_ng _t th_ _l_ctr_n_cs th_y h_v_ f__nd. Ch_n_ s__d th_ b_ll__ns w_r_ f_r tr_ck_ng w__th_r p_tt_rns. _t h_s d_n__d th_y w_r_ spy b_ll__ns. B__j_ng h_s cl__m_d th_t _S h_gh-_lt_t_d_ b_ll__ns h_v_ fl_wn _n Ch_n_'s __rsp_c_ w_th__t p_rm_ss__n m_r_ th_n t_n t_m_s _n th_ p_st y__r. Th_ Wh_t_ H__s_ s__d th_s w_s _ntr__. _ b_ll__n sh__t_ng _n __rly F_br__ry r_s_lt_d _n _S S_cr_t_ry _f St_t__nt_ny Bl_nk_n c_nc_ll_ng _ v_s_t t_ Ch_n_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

strange goings on are happening in the skies above north america this month us fighter jets have shot down four ufos unidentified flying objects in us and canadian airspace officials said the objects were balloons that were causing a danger to airplanes they were flying at an altitude of around 40000 feet 12200 metres the white house said yesterday that there were no signs the objects were linked to alien life national security council spokesperson john kirby said i dont think the american people need to worry about aliens with respect to these crafts earlier in the week a us official said aliens could not be counted out as a possible explanation for the balloons

the balloon saga has created titfortat exchanges between the usa and china us officials suspect the balloons were being used for spying however they have no proof of this rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off the us coast experts are currently looking at the electronics they have found china said the balloons were for tracking weather patterns it has denied they were spy balloons beijing has claimed that us highaltitude balloons have flown in chinas airspace without permission more than ten times in the past year the white house said this was untrue a balloon shooting in early february resulted in us secretary of state antony blinken cancelling a visit to china

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Strange goings-on are happening in the skies above North America. This month, US fighter jets have shot down four UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in US and Canadian airspace. Officials said the objects were balloons that were causing a danger to airplanes. They were flying at an altitude of around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres). The White House said yesterday that there were no signs the objects were linked to alien life. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said: "I don't think the American people need to worry about aliens with respect to these crafts." Earlier in the week, a US official said aliens could not be counted out as a possible explanation for the balloons. The balloons saga has created tit-for-tat exchanges between the USA and China. US officials suspect the balloons were being used for spying. However, they have no proof of this. Rescue teams have gathered debris from the balloons off the US coast. Experts are continually looking at the electronics they have found. China said the balloons were for tracking weather patterns. It has denied they were spy balloons. Beijing has claimed that US high-altitude balloons have flown in China's airspace without permission more than ten times in the past year. The White House said this was untrue. A balloon shooting in early February resulted in US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelling a visit to China.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BALLOONS: Make a poster about balloons. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. ALIENS: Write a magazine article about inviting aliens to visit Earth. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on high-altitude balloons. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. c 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. g 7. d
8. m 9. k 10. n 11. h 12. j 13. i 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. c	3. j	4. e	5. b
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. h	10. d

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Strange goings-on
2. Unidentified Flying Object
3. Around 40,000 feet (12,200 metres)
4. Aliens
5. Earlier in the week
6. Tit-for-tat exchanges
7. Spying
8. Tracking weather patterns
9. Ten
10. A visit to China

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Strange goings-on are happening in skies above America.
2. Balloons that were causing a danger to airplanes.
3. Signs the objects were linked to alien life.
4. I don't think American people need to worry.
5. Aliens can't be counted out as an explanation.
6. The balloon saga has created tit-for-tat exchanges.
7. Suspect the balloons were being used for spying.
8. Experts are currently looking at the electronics.
9. It has denied they were spy balloons.
10. Balloons have flown in China's airspace without permission.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)