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Level 2

Scientists say life on Mars would be difficult

11th July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars-2.html>

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

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars-2.html>

Scientists have found new things about the environment on Mars. They found a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals that would kill any living thing. The chemicals are on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists say the discovery of the chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars is lower. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the places in the universe that might support life. Mars has no ozone layer, which means there are high levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals means it might be possible for anything to grow on Mars.

The scientists tested what happens when the chemicals mix with UV rays. They found that just the chemicals were enough to kill living things. When the chemicals mix with UV rays, the mix kills living things 11 times faster. The scientists said: "Our [findings] show that the surface of...Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They say their research is evidence that the land on Mars is deadly to any kind of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "much of the surface and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

Sources: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/mars-toxic-chemicals-found-surface-life-organisms-less-likely-planet-ozone-layer-ultra-violet-a7828361.html>
<http://time.com/4845251/mars-life-toxins-microbes/>
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2017/surface-of-mars-poses-danger-to-life-tests-show>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have found new | a. violet (UV) radiation |
| 2. the environment | b. and the chemicals |
| 3. They found a toxic | c. on Mars |
| 4. the chance | d. for anything to grow |
| 5. places in the universe that | e. of finding life on Mars |
| 6. there are high levels of ultra- | f. things |
| 7. The mix of UV radiation | g. might support life |
| 8. it might be possible | h. cocktail of chemicals |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The scientists tested what | a. on Mars is deadly |
| 2. the chemicals mix | b. enough to kill |
| 3. just the chemicals were | c. harmful |
| 4. 11 times | d. surface regions |
| 5. the surface of Mars is highly | e. happens |
| 6. evidence that the land | f. life |
| 7. plant | g. with UV rays |
| 8. the surface and near- | h. faster |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars-2.html>

Scientists have found (1) _____ the environment on Mars. They (2) _____ cocktail" of chemicals that would kill any living thing. The chemicals are on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists say (3) _____ the chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars is lower. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study (4) _____ universe that might support life. Mars has no ozone layer, which means (5) _____ levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals means it might be possible (6) _____ grow on Mars.

The scientists tested what happens when (7) _____ with UV rays. They found that just the chemicals (8) _____ kill living things. When the chemicals mix with UV rays, the mix kills living things (9) _____. The scientists said: "Our [findings] show that the surface of...Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, (10) _____ cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They say their research is evidence that the land on Mars is (11) _____ kind of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "(12) _____ and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars-2.html>

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LIFE ON MARS SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about life on Mars 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) _____

