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Level 3

New NASA job – to protect Earth from aliens

4th August, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

America's space agency NASA has an exciting new job opening to protect Earth from aliens. The position is for a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The successful applicant will be responsible for making sure no life forms from outer space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with any alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According to the post, the new PPO will get a yearly salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three years, but could be extended for an additional two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only open to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals.

People who want to apply for the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a degree in physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also show they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing elements of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-win solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be responsible for planning several future NASA missions. One of these will be a trip to one to Jupiter's icy moons, Europa. The mission will search for signs of alien life on the moon.

Sources: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/474414000>
<http://nypost.com/2017/08/01/nasa-job-opening-to-protect-earth-from-aliens-has-6-figure-salary/>
<http://www.newsweek.com/nasa-hiring-planetary-protection-officer-save-earth-aliens-645254>

WARM-UPS

1. ALIENS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about aliens. 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?

space agency / Earth / aliens / applicant / outer space / salary / unique / citizens / qualified / candidates / engineering / skills / diplomacy / discussions / missions

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

3. GOOD: Students A **strongly** believe aliens visiting Earth would be a good thing; Students B **strongly** believe it would be a bad thing. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PROTECTING EARTH: How can we protect Earth from these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What would you do?	What should governments do?
Alien attack		
Alien bacteria		
Asteroid strike		
Cyber wars		
Global warming		
Nuclear wars		

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

6. JOB INTERVIEW: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for a job interview at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- qualifications
- nice suit
- confidence
- experience
- diplomacy skills
- general knowledge
- ambition
- nice smile

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

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

- a. The abbreviation for NASA's new job opening is POP. **T / F**
- b. The successful candidate will check astronauts for alien bacteria. **T / F**
- c. The contract for the NASA job is for five years. **T / F**
- d. The job is open for anyone with experience of space programmes. **T / F**
- e. Candidates need to have experience in engineering. **T / F**
- f. The successful candidate has experience of win-win solutions. **T / F**
- g. The successful candidate will have to help plan future NASA missions. **T / F**
- h. The article says a mission to a Jupiter moon will look for rocks. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. opening | a. skill |
| 2. applicant | b. annual |
| 3. come back | c. a number of |
| 4. yearly | d. candidate |
| 5. additional | e. parts |
| 6. expertise | f. extra |
| 7. elements | g. vacancy |
| 8. significance | h. journey |
| 9. several | i. return |
| 10. mission | j. importance |

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

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. successful | a. job positions in the world |
| 2. life forms from outer | b. alien life on the moon |
| 3. The job contract | c. qualified |
| 4. It is one of the most unique | d. applicant |
| 5. The job is only open | e. in physical science |
| 6. well | f. is for three years |
| 7. a degree | g. space |
| 8. space programs of national | h. solutions |
| 9. win-win | i. to U.S. citizens |
| 10. The mission will search for signs of | j. significance |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

America's space agency NASA has an exciting new job (1) _____ to protect Earth from aliens. The position is for a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The successful (2) _____ will be responsible for making sure no life forms from (3) _____ space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with any alien (4) _____. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According to the post, the new PPO will get a (5) _____ salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three years, but could be extended for an (6) _____ two years. It is one of the most (7) _____ job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only open to U.S. (8) _____ and U.S. nationals.

bacteria
additional
applicant
citizens
yearly
outer
unique
opening

People who want to (9) _____ for the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a (10) _____ in physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also show they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing (11) _____ of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the (12) _____ has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-(13) _____ solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be responsible for planning (14) _____ future NASA missions. One of these will be a trip to one to Jupiter's (15) _____ moons, Europa. The mission will search for (16) _____ of alien life on the moon.

win
apply
elements
signs
several
icy
candidate
degree

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

- 1) NASA has an exciting new job opening to protect _____
 - a. earthy from aliens
 - b. Earthling from aliens
 - c. Earth from aliens
 - d. earths from aliens
- 2) be responsible for making sure no life forms from outer _____ Earth
 - a. space come too
 - b. space come two
 - c. space come toe
 - d. space come to
- 3) astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with _____
 - a. any alien bacteria
 - b. any aliens bacteria
 - c. any alienating bacteria
 - d. any a lion bacteria
- 4) According to the post, the new PPO will get _____
 - a. a yearly salaried
 - b. a yearly celery
 - c. a yearly sell airy
 - d. a yearly salary
- 5) The job is only open to U.S. citizens and _____
 - a. U.S. nationalize
 - b. U.S. nationalist
 - c. U.S. national
 - d. U.S. nationals
- 6) People who want to apply for the job must _____
 - a. be well qualify
 - b. be well cool a fried
 - c. be well qualified
 - d. be well qualification
- 7) Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a degree _____
 - a. in physically science
 - b. in physical science
 - c. on physical science
 - d. in physical scientist
- 8) planning, executing, or overseeing elements of space programs of _____
 - a. national significance
 - b. national significant
 - c. national signify cans
 - d. national significantly
- 9) A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in _____"
 - a. win-won solutions
 - b. won-win solutions
 - c. won-won solutions
 - d. win-win solutions
- 10) The new PPO will be responsible for planning several future _____
 - a. NASA missionaries
 - b. NASA missives
 - c. NASA machines
 - d. NASA missions

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

America's space agency NASA (1) _____ new job opening to protect Earth from aliens. The position is for a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The (2) _____ will be responsible for making sure no life forms from outer space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from (3) _____ alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According to the post, the new PPO will (4) _____ salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three years, but could be extended (5) _____ two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The (6) _____ open to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals.

People who want (7) _____ the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and (8) _____ physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also show they have (9) _____ "planning, executing, or overseeing elements of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that (10) _____ solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be responsible for planning several future NASA missions. (11) _____ will be a trip to one to Jupiter's icy moons, Europa. The mission will search for signs (12) _____ the moon.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

1. What does PPO mean?
2. How much is the salary?
3. How long is the contract for?
4. How many PPOs are there in the world?
5. Who can apply for the job?
6. What kind of expertise must candidates have?
7. What kind of solutions must the PPO deliver?
8. What will the new PPO be responsible for planning?
9. Which planet's moons will there be a mission to?
10. What will the mission search for on one of the moons?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

- 1) What does PPO mean?
 - a) Positive Planets Organization
 - b) Planetary Protection Officer
 - c) Protect Planets Online
 - d) Pluto Power Orbit
- 2) How much is the salary?
 - a) up to \$167,000
 - b) up to \$178,000
 - c) up to \$176,000
 - d) up to \$187,000
- 3) How long is the contract for?
 - a) 3 1/2 years
 - b) 13 years
 - c) 3 years
 - d) 30 years
- 4) How many PPOs are there in the world?
 - a) 2
 - b) 3
 - c) 4
 - d) 5
- 5) Who can apply for the job?
 - a) anyone
 - b) US nationals and citizens
 - c) only engineering graduates
 - d) only astronauts
- 6) What kind of expertise must candidates have?
 - a) engineering expertise
 - b) astronomy expertise
 - c) aviation expertise
 - d) general knowledge expertise
- 7) What kind of solutions must the PPO deliver?
 - a) won-won
 - b) win-lose
 - c) win-win
 - d) win-won
- 8) What will the new PPO be responsible for planning?
 - a) future NASA missions
 - b) parties
 - c) new space rockets
 - d) training programmes
- 9) Which planet's moons will there be a mission to?
 - a) Uranus'
 - b) Neptune's
 - c) Saturn's
 - d) Jupiter's
- 10) What will the mission search for on one of the moons?
 - a) food
 - b) rocks
 - c) signs of alien life
 - d) a wifi signal

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

Role A – Qualifications

You think qualifications are the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, experience or a nice suit.

Role B – Confidence

You think confidence is the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): qualifications, experience or a nice suit.

Role C – Experience

You think experience is the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, qualifications or a nice suit.

Role D – Nice Suit

You think a nice suit is the most important thing to pass an interview. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): confidence, experience or qualifications.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

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

alien	attack

- 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">• opening• sure• back• yearly• three• employs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• well• degree• also• final• several• signs
--	--

ALIENS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

Write five GOOD questions about aliens 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.

ALIENS 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 'space'?
3. Why would you be good at this job?
4. What do you know about NASA?
5. Are there aliens out there?
6. What three questions would you ask an alien?
7. Why might aliens want to attack Earth?
8. Who should aliens talk to on Earth, and why?
9. What problems might alien bacteria cause on Earth?
10. What would a PPO do every day?

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ALIENS 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 'alien'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How could we stop aliens attacking Earth?
15. How are your skills in diplomacy?
16. When was the last win-win situation you were in?
17. Why are many aliens in movies cute?
18. What's the best aliens movie you've seen?
19. What would NASA do if they found life on another planet?
20. What questions would you like to ask NASA?

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

America's space agency NASA has an (1) _____ new job opening to protect Earth from aliens. The position is (2) _____ a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The successful applicant will be responsible for making sure no life (3) _____ from outer space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with any alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According (4) _____ the post, the new PPO will get a yearly salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three years, but could be extended for an (5) _____ two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only (6) _____ to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals.

People who want to apply for the job must be (7) _____ qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a degree (8) _____ physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also show they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing (9) _____ of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-(10) _____ solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be responsible for planning (11) _____ future NASA missions. One of these will be a trip to one to Jupiter's icy moons, Europa. The mission will (12) _____ for signs of alien life on the moon.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) excitement | (b) excite | (c) excited | (d) exciting |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) from | (d) for |
| 3. | (a) farms | (b) forms | (c) firms | (d) films |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) to | (d) on |
| 5. | (a) conditional | (b) traditional | (c) additional | (d) situational |
| 6. | (a) open | (b) ajar | (c) wide | (d) spread |
| 7. | (a) nice | (b) well | (c) best | (d) good |
| 8. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) by | (d) at |
| 9. | (a) cements | (b) elements | (c) compartments | (d) comments |
| 10. | (a) winner | (b) winning | (c) win | (d) won |
| 11. | (a) digital | (b) decimal | (c) several | (d) numeral |
| 12. | (a) comb | (b) sift | (c) view | (d) search |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

Paragraph 1

1. America's space caneyg NASA
2. The ssfcluesu applicant
3. space qnetmepiu
4. for an adatlniodi two years
5. one of the most nuiqeu job positions
6. only open to U.S. teciizsn

Paragraph 2

7. engineering ptserxeie
8. a egdere in physical science
9. programs of atlnaoi significance
10. win-win tsolionus
11. psseobiern for planning
12. The smsiino will search for signs of alien life

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The successful applicant will be responsible for making sure no life
- () show they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing elements of space programs of national
- () forms from outer space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come
- () back from space with any alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According
- () the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only open to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals.
- () of Jupiter's icy moons, Europa. The mission will search for signs of alien life on the moon.
- () People who want to apply for the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering
- () to the post, the new PPO will get a yearly salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three
- () significance". A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-
- () expertise" and have a degree in physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also
- () years, but could be extended for an additional two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in
- (**1**) America's space agency NASA has an exciting new job opening to protect Earth from aliens. The position is for
- () responsible for planning several future NASA missions. One of these will be a trip to one
- () win solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

1. exciting agency new NASA job has America's an space .
2. space Making from sure come no to life Earth forms outer .
3. with bacteria come space alien not from any Do back .
4. the of one is It world the in positions job unique most .
5. open is US to nationals US The citizens job and only .
6. well be must job the for apply to want who People qualified .
7. candidate The experience have they show also must .
8. in win in resulted - Skills that win solutions diplomacy .
9. future missions for several NASA Responsible planning .
10. will mission The moon the on life alien of signs for search .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

America's space agency NASA has an *excitement / exciting* new job opening to protect Earth from *aliens / alien*. The position is for a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The successful applicant will be responsible for *making / make* sure no life forms from outer space *comes / come* to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space *equipped / equipment* do not come back from space with any alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. *According / Accord* to the post, the new PPO will get a *yearly / year* salary of up to \$187,000. The job *contract / contact* is for three years, but could be extended for an *additionally / additional* two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only open to U.S. citizens and U.S. *national / nationals*.

People who want to *applicant / apply* for the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "*broad / brand* engineering expertise" and have a degree *on / in* physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also *show / showing* they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing *elements / element* of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the candidate *have / has* "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-win solutions *during / while* extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be *responsibility / responsible* for planning several future NASA missions. One of *them / these* will be a trip to one to Jupiter's icy moons, Europa. The mission will search for signs of alien *life / live* on the moon.

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

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

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

_m_r_c_'s sp_c_ _g_ncy N_S_ h_s _n _xc_t_ng n_w j_b
_p_n_ng t_ pr_t_ct __rth fr_m l__ns. Th_ p_s_t__n_s
f_r __ Pl_n_t_ry Pr_t_ct__n __ff_c_r (PP_). Th_
s_cc_ssf_l_ ppl_c_nt w_ll b_ r_sp_ns_bl_ f_r m_k_ng
s_r_n_l_f_f_rms fr_m __t_r sp_c_ c_m_t_ __rth.
Th_ PP_ m_k_s s_r_ _str_n__ts _nd sp_c_ _q__pm_nt
d_n_t c_m_b_ck fr_m sp_c_ w_th ny_l__n b_ct_r__.
Th_ p_s_t__n w_s p_st_d _n th_ _s_j_bs.g_v w_bs_t_.
_cc_rdn_g t_ th_ p_st, th_ n_w PP_ w_ll g_t __y__rly
s_l_ry_f_p_t_ \$187,000. Th_ j_b c_ntr_ct _s f_r thr__
y__rs, b_t c__ld b_ __xt_nd_d f_r _n __dd_t__n_l tw__
y__rs. _t_s_n__f th_ m_st_n_q__j_b p_s_t__ns_n
th_ w_rld. N_S_ _nly _mpl_ys tw_ PP_s. Th_ j_b _s_nly
_p_n_t___.S. c_t_z_ns _nd __.S. n_t__n_ls.

P__pl_ wh_ w_nt t_ _pply f_r th_ j_b m_st b_ w_ll
q__l_f__d. C_nd_d_t_s m_st h_v_ "br__d _ng_n__r_ng
_xp_rt_s_" _nd h_v_ __d_gr__ _n phys_c_l_sc__nc_,
_ng_n__r_ng _r m_th_m_t_cs. Th_ c_nd_d_t_ m_st
ls sh_w th_y h_v_ __xp_r__nc_ _n "pl_nn_ng,
_xc_t_ng, _r_v_rs__ng_l_m_nts_f sp_c_ pr_gr_ms
_f_n_t__n_l_s_gn_f_c_nc_". __f_n_l_r_q__r_m_nt _s
th_t th_ c_nd_d_t_ h_s "sk_lls _n d_pl_m_cy th_t
r_s_lt_d _n w_n-w_n s_l_t__ns d_r_ng _xtr_m_ly
d_ff_c_lt _nd c_mpl_x m_lt_l_t_r_l d_sc_ss__ns". Th_
n_w PP_ w_ll b_ r_sp_ns_bl_ f_r pl_nn_ng s_v_r_l
f_t_r N_S_ m_ss__ns. _n__f th_s_ w_ll b_ __tr_p_t__
_n_t_ J_p_t_r's _cy m__ns, __r_p_. Th_ m_ss__n w_ll
s__rch f_r s_gns _f_l__n_l_f_ _n th_ m__n.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

america's space agency nasa has an exciting new job opening to protect earth from aliens the position is for a planetary protection officer (ppo) the successful applicant will be responsible for making sure no life forms from outer space come to earth the ppo makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with any alien bacteria the position was posted on the usajobsgov website according to the post the new ppo will get a yearly salary of up to \$187000 the job contract is for three years but could be extended for an additional two years it is one of the most unique job positions in the world nasa only employs two ppos the job is only open to us citizens and us nationals

people who want to apply for the job must be well qualified candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a degree in physical science engineering or mathematics the candidate must also show they have experience in "planning executing or overseeing elements of space programs of national significance" a final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-win solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions" the new ppo will be responsible for planning several future nasa missions one of these will be a trip to one to jupiter's icy moons europa the mission will search for signs of alien life on the moon

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

America's space agency NASA has an exciting new job opening to protect Earth from aliens. The position is for a Planetary Protection Officer (PPO). The successful applicant will be responsible for making sure no life forms from outer space come to Earth. The PPO makes sure astronauts and space equipment do not come back from space with any alien bacteria. The position was posted on the usajobs.gov website. According to the post, the new PPO will get a yearly salary of up to \$187,000. The job contract is for three years, but could be extended for an additional two years. It is one of the most unique job positions in the world. NASA only employs two PPOs. The job is only open to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals. People who want to apply for the job must be well qualified. Candidates must have "broad engineering expertise" and have a degree in physical science, engineering or mathematics. The candidate must also show they have experience in "planning, executing, or overseeing elements of space programs of national significance". A final requirement is that the candidate has "skills in diplomacy that resulted in win-win solutions during extremely difficult and complex multilateral discussions". The new PPO will be responsible for planning several future NASA missions. One of these will be a trip to one of Jupiter's moons, Europa. The mission will search for signs of alien life on the moon.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1708/170804-alien-attack.html>

The Earth needs protecting from alien life. Discuss.

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines for text entry.

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. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

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

4. EARTH PROTECTION: Write a magazine article about protecting Earth from aliens. 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 aliens. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to protect Earth from aliens. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d F e T f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. opening | a. vacancy |
| 2. applicant | b. candidate |
| 3. come back | c. return |
| 4. yearly | d. annual |
| 5. additional | e. extra |
| 6. expertise | f. skill |
| 7. elements | g. parts |
| 8. significance | h. importance |
| 9. several | i. a number of |
| 10. mission | j. journey |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Planetary Protection Officer
2. Up to \$187,000
3. Three years
4. Two
5. U.S. citizens and nationals
6. Engineering expertise
7. Win-win solutions
8. Several future missions
9. Jupiter's
10. Signs of alien life

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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 ;-)