
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Searching for life on another planet



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/3P1zgBU>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. An exoplanet is a planet that exists...
 - a) inside of our solar system.
 - b) outside of our solar system.
 - c) very close to Earth.
2. What is important about the zone that TRAPPIST-1e is in?
 - a) It is likely to have earthquakes.
 - b) It is very close to its sun.
 - c) It is possible for things to live there.
3. Which generally makes a planet hotter?
 - a) Carbon dioxide.
 - b) Oxygen.
 - c) Water.
4. What does the pronoun 'it' refer to in the sentence, "We could say the data has potential in that **it** shows signs of helping the research".
 - a) The data.
 - b) The planet.
 - c) The research.
5. Scientists have ruled out that TRAPPIST-1e is...
 - a) full of greenhouse gases.
 - b) habitable.
 - c) the same size as Earth.
6. Why are scientists excited that nitrogen might dominate the atmosphere on TRAPPIST-1e?
 - a) Nitrogen helps reduce greenhouse gases.
 - b) Nitrogen increases the temperature of an atmosphere.
 - c) Nitrogen is a clue that there could be life there.

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. habitable - describes a place or habitat that is suitable for something to live
- b. zone - an area with a particular feature
- c. potential - describes possibly having qualities or abilities to do something
- d. rule out - dismiss the possibility or idea of something
- e. dominate - controlled by or is the most significant element of
- f. fingers crossed – an expression we use to wish for hope or luck

5. 1b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6c

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.