

ProTalk

Discussion Files

C2. The prospect of migration to other planets

Afaq Language Center

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Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the prospect of moving to another planet.
- Can list the advantages and disadvantages of this and present my own view in depth.



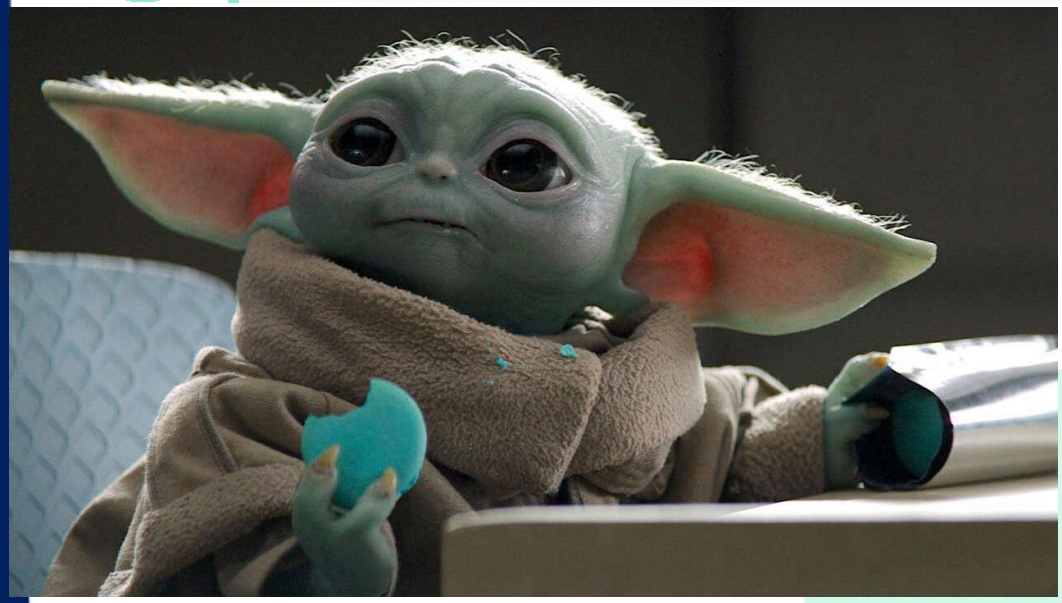
Do you believe in life on other planets, or are alien sightings simply a **figment of the imagination**? Humans have been fascinated with the world beyond Earth for centuries, but is it realistic to believe that we could live in outer space one day?

Space and the world beyond



Were you interested in space when you were growing up? Did you ever go camping and star gazing? Did you watch a lot of science fiction films? Share your memories with your teacher.

Do you believe in aliens?



Do you believe in aliens? What do you think about this controversial topic? What arguments are there for and against their existence?

Challenge time!

Can you name all the planets of our solar system in English? Do you know any special way to remember their order?

Read the text and summarize it.

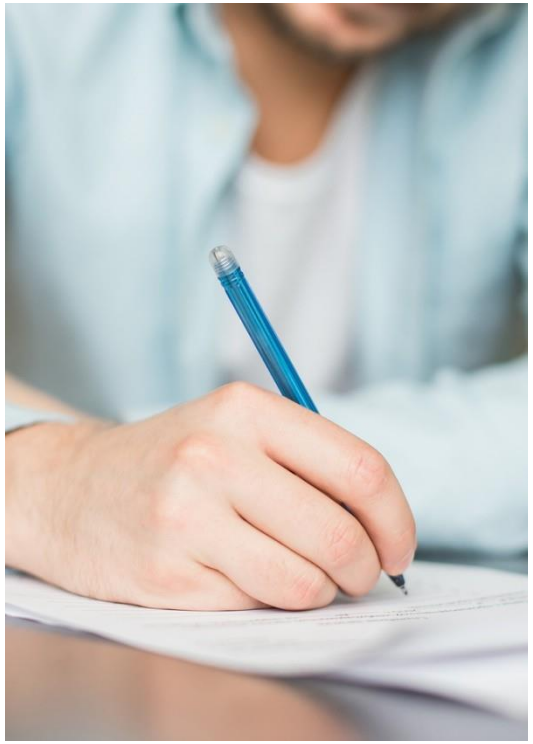
A giant leap for humankind

"That's one small step for a man, one giant **leap** for mankind." These were the famous first words uttered by Neil Armstrong as he became the first person to walk on the moon. All around the world, people **were glued to their television screens** that evening; it was perhaps the television event of the century. Since the beginning of time, humans had dreamt of exploring space, and for centuries upon centuries it had seemed an impossible goal. Yet, on that one evening in 1969, ordinary people sat at home in their living rooms watching the broadcast of a **seemingly impossible** dream becoming reality.

At present, the prospect of exploring other planets in our solar system remains but a dream. However, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or **NASA**, this might not be the case for much longer. NASA are currently developing technology in an attempt to send humans to an **asteroid**, perhaps as early as 2025. Should this initial mission be successful, the next goal would be to send a human mission to Mars, with any luck, before 2050.

Vocabulary review

Look at the words and phrases below. Do you remember them from the text? Explain their meaning to your teacher.



leap	to be glued to something	to be seemingly impossible
NASA	broadcast	asteroid

The first man on the moon

The text refers to the first moon landing. Imagine how it must have felt to be the first man on the moon! What questions would you have wanted to ask Neil Armstrong after the event? Role play with your teacher as Neil Armstrong, then swap roles.



emotions

danger

training

adventure

The life of an astronaut

Not everyone can be an astronaut – it's a really tough life!



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3 You are an astronaut heading on a trip that could last up to five years! You can bring three important belongings with you. What do you pack?

The trip of a lifetime

A trip to Mars would be a thrilling journey, but one filled with risks. What's the greatest adventure or biggest risk you've ever undertaken? It could be a trip, or an experience you've had in your life. Tell your teacher about it.



adventure

danger

excitement

Uncertain times

Read the quote below from a leading scientist talking about climate change. How do you think our world will look in 50 years, and 100? What problems are we facing at present and how might they get worse?

> Future generations will look back on our failure to act with dismay. Our actions now will have catastrophic consequences down the line.

For and against

Some people are staunch advocates of space exploration, for others it's a waste of money and a worthless pursuit. What are the arguments for and against space exploration? If you were in control of the government, would you invest in the research for a mission to Mars?



cost

explore

discover

risk

Will we ever migrate to other planets, or is this just a pie-in-the-sky idea?

Imagine the future

If humankind were to move to another planet, what would everyday life be like? What kinds of things would be different? Would sports be the same? What would we eat? Use the pictures below to help you.






Presentation

How do you feel about space exploration? Is it a worthy cause to invest money in? Imagine your government has decided to invest $1 billion in space exploration. Prepare a two-minute presentation for the government in support of, or criticising this action.

Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.