

UNIT 8

Complete the paragraph with the correct words.

excited	far	nearest	single	suitable
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1. Until 1780, humans only knew about the five planets that are _____ to Earth: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The astronomer William Herschel changed that. He made his own telescopes at his home near London. The weather there was often not _____ for looking at the stars, but on good days his telescopes were able to see deep into space. In 1781, he discovered a _____, strange object in the sky. He realized it was a planet in our solar system, but very _____ from Earth. Scientists were very _____ about this, and Herschel became famous. Today, we call this planet Uranus. It takes Uranus 84 years to go around the sun, and it is 2.8 billion kilometers from it.

Choose the correct meaning for each word in bold.

2. A **single** house stood in the middle of the field. There were no other houses around.
- one
 - large
 - lonely
3. Some animals like foxes and owls hunt in the night. They have special eyes so they can see when it is **dark**.
- late
 - far away
 - with little or no light

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4. I always eat vegetables **within** one week of buying them. I don't keep them any longer than that.
 - a. after period of time has passed
 - b. before a period of time has passed
 - c. in the middle of a period of time
5. It wasn't a shooting star—I'm **certain** of that.
 - a. sure
 - b. unsure
 - c. scared
6. I make \$2,000 per month, but my wife makes **double** that amount—\$4,000 per month.
 - a. a lot more than
 - b. two times less than
 - c. two times as much

Complete the sentences with the correct adjective. Add *un-*. There are two extra words.

certain	happy	safe	suitable	surprising
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7. He is _____ whether to study in Germany or France.
8. It is _____ that he agrees. He hardly disagrees with others.
9. The movie is _____ for children, so we watched it after they went to bed.

Choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

10. Did you hear the news? It is very _____.
 - a. sad
 - b. sadness
11. He took three days off work because of _____.
 - a. ill
 - b. illness

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12. Let's buy this bed. I love its wonderful _____.
- a. soft
 - b. softness

Read the passage.**Other Earths**

- A** Look up at the sky on a dark, moonless night. There are many thousands of stars. But are there other planets like Earth? And could humans live on them one day?
- B** New technology is helping astronomers discover hundreds of new planets. We now know of more than 5,200 "exoplanets"—planets that orbit stars other than our sun. Some exoplanets may be similar to Earth.
- C** An Earth-like exoplanet must have similar features to Earth. It needs to be the right distance from its star. It will then have a suitable temperature for life: not too cold and not too hot. A planet at the right distance from its star might also have water. Where there's water, there might be life.
- D** Earth-like exoplanets could be more common than once thought. In 2016, scientists were excited to find seven Earth-like exoplanets 39 light-years from Earth. The exoplanets orbit a single star called Trappist-1. Each planet is a similar size to Earth, and each may have water. Although the seven planets are all very close to the star, Trappist-1 is much cooler than our sun. Temperatures could therefore be suitable for life.
- E** Could humans live on an Earth-like planet one day? The biggest problem is distance. Our nearest star system, Alpha Centauri, is 4.3 light-years from Earth. In 2016, scientists found an Earth-like exoplanet in this system. However, traveling there with today's technology would take thousands of years.
- F** With future technology, however, this may change. Scientist Andreas Tziolas believes that one day we will travel to Alpha Centauri. He thinks that new technology will let us reach it in trips that take a few decades. "I believe we can achieve ... interstellar exploration within a hundred years," he says.

Choose the correct answers.

13. What is the main idea of the reading passage?
- a. finding new planets
 - b. living on other planets
 - c. interstellar travel
 - d. Earth-like planets

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14. Which of the following is NOT a main feature of an Earth-like exoplanet?
 - a. There is soil.
 - b. It is of similar size to Earth.
 - c. There is water.
 - d. It has a suitable temperature for life.

15. How is Trappist-1 different from our sun?
 - a. It is larger in size.
 - b. It is further from its orbiting planets.
 - c. It has a lower temperature.
 - d. It has more planets orbiting it.

16. How far is the nearest star system from Earth?
 - a. 4.3 light-years
 - b. 10 light-years
 - c. 43 light-years
 - d. 1,000 light-years

17. According to scientist Andreas Tziolas, when can we travel to other stars?
 - a. within a few decades
 - b. within a hundred years
 - c. within a thousand years
 - d. never

Read the passage.

A Home Away from Home

- A** Earth is our home, but could humans live on the moon one day? Humans visited the moon a few times between 1969 and 1972, but now scientists think we could also live there. Could we achieve that? Humans would need to deal with many difficulties on the moon first.
- B** First, we would need air. We need air to live. Air also protects us from radiation—a dangerous energy from the sun. Without air, radiation could kill us. The moon has no atmosphere,¹ so we would need to make our own air there before we can make the moon a suitable home.
- C** We would also need food and water. The moon doesn't have these things, and we wouldn't be able to bring them from Earth because space travel is very expensive. For example, sending a one-liter bottle of water into space would cost over \$20,000. People would need to recycle² water and grow food on the moon.

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- D** Another problem is where we would live. At first, homes and towns on the moon would be very small. People would have to live in small spaces, and it would be difficult for them to ever be alone. Most humans find it difficult to be near others all the time. Studies show that crowded places make people unhappy. There would also be a greater chance of people having illnesses on the moon.
- E** There are many problems, but there are also things we could probably find answers to quickly. We could learn from the experience, and who knows, perhaps our great-great-grandchildren might travel to other planets, or even live amazing lives around other stars.
- F** However, the idea of living far away on a moon, or planet, that is unsuitable for life seems wrong to some people. The only place to live a healthy and happy life is on Earth, so now the most important question we need to be asking is: how do we care for our own home planet, so that it is safe for us all?

¹The **atmosphere** is the air around the Earth, or any planet or moon.

²When you **recycle** something, you use it again.

Choose *True* or *False*.

18. Radiation is a problem on the moon.
a. True
b. False
19. The atmosphere on the moon is very thin.
a. True
b. False
20. It is very expensive to carry water to the moon.
a. True
b. False
21. People who like being alone may find it difficult to live on the moon.
a. True
b. False
22. The author believes that the best place for humans to live will always be Earth.
a. True
b. False

Decide which paragraph each note refers to. Write A–F.

23. *Problem of small living space: unhappiness, illness*

This note refers to paragraph_____.

24. *Need air on moon – to live & to protect from radiation*

This note refers to paragraph_____.

Choose the correct answer to complete each sentence.

25. It _____ very cloudy in this country, so there aren't many telescopes here.
a. can be
b. can't be
c. can is
26. I _____ that scientists found a galaxy 12 billion light-years away.
a. can't to believe
b. can to believe
c. can't believe
27. We _____ for sure whether life exists on other planets until we go there.
a. can not know
b. can't know
c. cannot to know
28. Spaceships _____ very fast, but they can't travel faster than light.
a. can travel
b. can traveled
c. can to travel
29. A "black hole" is called this because light _____ from it.
a. can escape
b. can't escape
c. can't escapes

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30. There is no sound in space, so the famous line in the movie *Alien* is true: "In space, no one _____ you scream!"
- a. can hear
 - b. can't hear
 - c. cannot hear

Match the sentence halves.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 31. I think that | ● | ● a. think it can be seen from space. |
| 32. I don't | ● | ● b. an astronaut's job is very exciting. |
| 33. I believe we | ● | ● c. that aliens exist. |
| 34. I don't believe | ● | ● d. opinion, space travel is a waste of money. |
| 35. In my | ● | ● e. will find another planet to live on. |

You are going to write sentences on one of the following topics.

36. **Give your opinion about space.**

Topic 1: Will humans live on other planets and moons within your lifetime?

Topic 2: Will we reach other star systems one day?

A. OUTLINE Plan an outline for your sentences.

Say your answer to the question.

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Say why you have that opinion.

Say another reason why.

B. Think of some words and phrases you can use in your sentences. Write them in the box.

The words and phrases below can be useful when writing about space and space travel.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • <i>In my opinion, ...</i> | • <i>I think people will be excited</i> |
| • <i>I believe ...</i> | • <i>to travel to ...</i> |
| • <i>I don't think ...</i> | • <i>... within my lifetime</i> |
| • <i>It is unlikely that ...</i> | • <i>... reach the nearest star</i> |
| • <i>The moon is an unsuitable</i> | • <i>... discover new places</i> |
| • <i>place for ...</i> | • <i>... search for water ...</i> |

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- C. Write your sentences based on your outline. Use the model to help you. Remember to use the vocabulary you wrote down.**

Model:

I don't believe humans will live on other planets in the next few decades.

In my opinion, we will visit a few places nearby. But I think we won't be able to live there.

The moon and Mars are unsuitable places for humans.

It is unlikely that we will reach Jupiter. It is very far, so it will take years to get there.

Honestly, I don't think there is a good reason to go to other planets.

We shouldn't spend billions of dollars on space travel.



(12 points)