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## **Level 2**

# **Luxembourg to develop asteroid mining**

**6th February, 2016**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining-2.html>

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**Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining-2.html>

The tiny nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a player in the space race. However, its government has just invested in the asteroid mining industry. Companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will help future trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg is looking at research and development projects to become a leader in this new industry. Its minister for the economy said: "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks...without damaging natural habitats."

Luxembourg is not the only country looking for new places to mine. In 2015, the US president signed a law to let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a base on the Moon for research and exploration. A US company said asteroid mining would allow greater exploration of space, while protecting resources on Earth. However, there could be problems. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of our 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be allowed to mine asteroids.

Sources: <http://mashable.com/2016/02/04/luxembourg-asteroid-mining-initiative/#bOJUuel.UgqM>  
<http://www.mining-technology.com/news/newsluxembourg-plans-legal-framework-asteroid-mining-4801653>  
[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Luxembourgs\\_ultimate\\_offshore\\_investment\\_Space\\_mining\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Luxembourgs_ultimate_offshore_investment_Space_mining_999.html)

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining-2.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. the space               | a. minerals                     |
| 2. its government has just | b. unexplored mineral resources |
| 3. water and               | c. race                         |
| 4. research and            | d. habitats                     |
| 5. Our aim is to           | e. invested                     |
| 6. previously              | f. rocks                        |
| 7. lifeless                | g. open                         |
| 8. natural                 | h. development projects         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. not the only country looking for new | a. Treaty of 1967    |
| 2. a base on the Moon for research      | b. companies         |
| 3. allow greater exploration            | c. places to mine    |
| 4. protecting resources on              | d. heritage          |
| 5. The Outer Space                      | e. to mine asteroids |
| 6. part of our common                   | f. and exploration   |
| 7. private                              | g. Earth             |
| 8. be allowed                           | h. of space          |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining-2.html>

The tiny nation of Luxembourg is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ as a player in (2) \_\_\_\_\_. However, its government has just invested in the asteroid mining industry. Companies will mine asteroids near the Earth (3) \_\_\_\_\_ minerals. Some of the things they mine will (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg is looking at research and development projects to become (5) \_\_\_\_\_ this new industry. Its minister for the economy said: "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks... (6) \_\_\_\_\_ natural habitats."

Luxembourg (7) \_\_\_\_\_ country looking for new places to mine. In 2015, the US president (8) \_\_\_\_\_ let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for a base on the Moon for research and exploration. A US company said asteroid mining (10) \_\_\_\_\_ exploration of space, while protecting resources on Earth. However, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ problems. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of our 'common heritage'. This means private companies may (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to mine asteroids.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining-2.html>

The tiny nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a player in the space race. However, its government has just invested in the asteroid mining industry. Companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will help future trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg is looking at research and development projects to become a leader in this new industry. Its minister for the economy said: "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks... without damaging natural habitats." Luxembourg is not the only country looking for new places to mine. In 2015, the US president signed a law to let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a base on the Moon for research and exploration. A US company said asteroid mining would allow greater exploration of space, while protecting resources on Earth. However, there could be problems. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of our 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be allowed to mine asteroids.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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*Luxembourg to develop asteroid mining – 6th February, 2016*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining-2.html>

Write about **asteroid mining** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

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