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Level 3

Scientists say life on Mars would be difficult

11th July, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.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/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Scientists have discovered new things about the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They found a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals that would easily kill any living organism. The chemicals have been found on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say the discovery of the chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars has fallen. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the universe that might support life. The researchers said Mars had no ozone layer, which means there are high levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape.

The scientists tested what happens when the chemicals found on Mars mix with UV radiation. They found it killed organisms very quickly. The chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals were mixed with UV rays, the mix killed organisms 11 times faster. The scientists said: "Our observations show that the surface of present-day Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research was further evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any form of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "much of the surface and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

Sources: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/mars-toxic-chemicals-found-surface-life-organisms-less-likely-planet-ozone-layer-ultra-violet-a7828361.html>
<http://time.com/4845251/mars-life-toxins-microbes/>
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2017/surface-of-mars-poses-danger-to-life-tests-show>

WARM-UPS

1. LIFE ON MARS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about life on Mars. 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?

scientists / atmosphere / environment / toxic / cocktail / organism / ozone / landscape chemicals / radiation / Mars / observations / plant life / UV rays / uninhabitable

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

3. MARS EXPLORATION: Students A **strongly** believe spending money on Mars exploration is a waste of money; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. THE UNIVERSE: What do you know about these things in the universe and what do you want to know? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

| | What I know | What I didn't know |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| The Moon | | |
| The Sun | | |
| Mars | | |
| The Milky Way | | |
| Asteroids | | |
| Black Holes | | |

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. LIVING ON MARS: Rank these with your partner. Put the most difficult things about living on Mars at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The long journey
- The cold
- No water
- No plant life
- Missing Earth
- Aliens
- Oxygen
- Radiation

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

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

- a. Scientists found alcoholic cocktails on Mars. **T / F**
- b. Scientists say there is an increased chance of finding life on Mars. **T / F**
- c. Astrobiologists study the chances of finding life in the universe. **T / F**
- d. The scientists found that Mars had a very thin ozone layer. **T / F**
- e. Chemicals and radiation on Mars would kill organisms very quickly. **T / F**
- f. The chemicals alone would kill organisms 11 times faster. **T / F**
- g. The scientists said their work was more evidence that Mars was deadly. **T / F**
- h. The scientists said the surface of Mars was uninhabitable. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. discovered | a. finding |
| 2. toxic | b. more |
| 3. discovery | c. possibility |
| 4. chance | d. examined |
| 5. landscape | e. terrain |
| 6. tested | f. found |
| 7. enough | g. damaging |
| 8. harmful | h. areas |
| 9. further | i. sufficient |
| 10. regions | j. poisonous |

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

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Scientists have discovered new things | a. quickly |
| 2. They found a toxic | b. (UV) radiation |
| 3. the chance of finding life on Mars has | c. deadly |
| 4. The researchers said Mars had no ozone | d. with UV radiation |
| 5. high levels of ultra-violet | e. about the atmosphere |
| 6. the chemicals found on Mars mix | f. layer |
| 7. They found it killed organisms very | g. life |
| 8. the mix killed organisms 11 times | h. cocktail of chemicals |
| 9. the surface of Mars is | i. faster |
| 10. any form of plant | j. fallen |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Scientists have (1) _____ new things about the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They found a "toxic (2) _____ " of chemicals that would easily kill any living (3) _____. The chemicals have been found on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say the (4) _____ of the chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars has (5) _____. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the (6) _____ that might support life. The researchers said Mars had no ozone layer, which means there are high (7) _____ of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The (8) _____ of UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape.

organism
fallen
levels
cocktail
mix
discovered
universe
discovery

The scientists tested what (9) _____ when the chemicals found on Mars mix with UV radiation. They found it killed organisms very (10) _____. The chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals were mixed with UV (11) _____, the mix killed organisms 11 times (12) _____. The scientists said: "Our observations show that the surface of present-day Mars is (13) _____ [harmful] to cells, caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research was (14) _____ evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any form of (15) _____ life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "much of the (16) _____ and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

faster
happens
plant
highly
surface
rays
quickly
further

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

- 1) Scientists have discovered new things about the atmosphere _____
 - a. and environments
 - b. and environmental
 - c. and environment
 - d. and environments
- 2) They found a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals that would easily kill _____
 - a. any live-in organism
 - b. any alive in organism
 - c. any lived in organism
 - d. any living organism
- 3) the discovery of the chemicals means the chance of finding life _____
 - a. on Mars has falling
 - b. on Mars has fallen
 - c. on Mars has fall on
 - d. on Mars has felling
- 4) the atmosphere and environments in the universe that _____
 - a. might support life
 - b. might support live
 - c. might support leaf
 - d. might support laugh
- 5) The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the _____
 - a. Martian landscaped
 - b. Martian landscape
 - c. Martian landscapes
 - d. Martian landscaping
- 6) tested what happens when the chemicals found on Mars mix _____
 - a. within UV radiation
 - b. with UV radiation
 - c. wither UV radiation
 - d. without UV radiation
- 7) when the chemicals were mixed with UV rays, the mix killed organisms _____
 - a. 11 timed faster
 - b. 11 time faster
 - c. 11 timing faster
 - d. 11 times faster
- 8) Our observations show that the surface of present-day Mars is highly _____
 - a. harm full to sells
 - b. harmful to sells
 - c. harmful two cells
 - d. harmful to cells
- 9) their research was further evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any _____
 - a. from of plant life
 - b. farm of plant life
 - c. firm of plant life
 - d. form of plant life
- 10) much of the surface and near-_____
 - a. surfaces regions
 - b. surface regions
 - c. surfaced regions
 - d. suffice regions

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Scientists have discovered (1) _____ the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They (2) _____ cocktail" of chemicals that would easily kill any living organism. The chemicals have been found on (3) _____ the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say the (4) _____ chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars has fallen. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the (5) _____ support life. The researchers said Mars had no ozone layer, which means there are high levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. (6) _____ radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape.

The scientists tested what happens when the (7) _____ Mars mix with UV radiation. They (8) _____ organisms very quickly. The chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals (9) _____ UV rays, the mix killed organisms 11 times faster. The scientists said: "Our observations show that (10) _____ present-day Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research (11) _____ that the surface of Mars is deadly (12) _____ of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "much of the surface and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

1. What kind of cocktail did the scientists say they found?
2. What was another name the article called Mars?
3. Which university carried out this research?
4. What kind of scientists did the research?
5. What kind of layer did the scientists say Mars did not have?
6. How quickly did the chemicals and radiation kill the organisms?
7. How many times faster did the mix kill the organisms?
8. What do observations show about the surface of present-day Mars?
9. For what kind of life is the surface of Mars deadly?
10. What do the chemicals and UV rays make the surface of Mars?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

- 1) What kind of cocktail did the scientists say they found?
 - a) a mocktail
 - b) a toxic cocktail
 - c) a vodka-based cocktail
 - d) a Molotov cocktail
- 2) What was another name the article called Mars?
 - a) The Hot Earth
 - b) Martial
 - c) Martian
 - d) the Red Planet
- 3) Which university carried out this research?
 - a) Edinburgh
 - b) Eden
 - c) Elgin
 - d) Engineer
- 4) What kind of scientists did the research?
 - a) neurobiologists
 - b) microbiologists
 - c) astrobiologists
 - d) plant biologists
- 5) What kind of layer did the scientists say Mars did not have?
 - a) fat layer
 - b) ozone
 - c) crust
 - d) thin layer
- 6) How quickly did the chemicals and radiation kill the organisms?
 - a) very quickly
 - b) 100 mph
 - c) like a snail
 - d) about 3 a second
- 7) How many times faster did the mix kill the organisms?
 - a) 9 times
 - b) 10 times
 - c) 11 times
 - d) 12 times
- 8) What do observations show about the surface of present-day Mars?
 - a) it is highly harmful to cells
 - b) it's red
 - c) there are many cocktails
 - d) the UV rays are ultraviolet
- 9) For what kind of life is the surface of Mars deadly?
 - a) plant life
 - b) park life
 - c) vegetable life
 - d) fruit life
- 10) What do the chemicals and UV rays make the surface of Mars?
 - a) hot
 - b) flat
 - c) shiny
 - d) uninhabitable

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Role A – The Long Journey

You think the long journey is the most difficult thing about living on Mars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): no plant life, aliens or missing Earth.

Role B – No Plant Life

You think no plant life is the most difficult thing about living on Mars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): the long journey, aliens or missing Earth.

Role C – Aliens

You think aliens are the most difficult thing about living on Mars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): no plant life, the long journey or missing Earth.

Role D – Missing Earth

You think missing Earth is the most difficult thing about living on Mars. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why there things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): no plant life, aliens or the long journey.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

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

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| life | Mars |
|-------------|-------------|

- 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">• easily• red• chance• study• layer• Martian | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• happens• quickly• 11• show• deadly• much |
|---|---|

LIFE ON MARS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Write five GOOD questions about life on Mars 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.

LIFE ON MARS 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 'life'?
3. What do you know about Mars?
4. What is a 'toxic cocktail'?
5. Do you think there is life on Mars?
6. What might an astrobiologist do every day?
7. What would we do if we found life on Mars?
8. What would you do if you met an alien?
9. What would it be like to live on Mars
10. Why are space companies trying to get to Mars?

Scientists say life on Mars would be difficult – 11th July, 2017
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LIFE ON MARS 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 'Mars'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Do you think it's a good idea for humans to go to Mars?
15. Would you like to work as an astrobiologist?
16. Would you like to go to Mars one day?
17. What would you like to know about Mars?
18. What are Martians?
19. What will we be doing on Mars in 100 years from now?
20. What questions would you like to ask the scientists?

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/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Scientists have discovered new (1) _____ about the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They found a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals that would (2) _____ kill any living organism. The chemicals have been (3) _____ on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say the discovery of the chemicals means the chance (4) _____ finding life on Mars has fallen. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the universe that might support life. The researchers said Mars had (5) _____ ozone layer, which means there are (6) _____ levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape.

The scientists tested what (7) _____ when the chemicals found on Mars mix with UV radiation. They found it killed organisms very (8) _____. The chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals were mixed with UV rays, the mix killed organisms 11 times (9) _____. The scientists said: "Our observations show that the (10) _____ of present-day Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research was (11) _____ evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any form of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "much of the surface and near-surface regions (12) _____".

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) thing | (b) thinks | (c) things | (d) think |
| 2. | (a) easily | (b) easy | (c) easier | (d) easiest |
| 3. | (a) found | (b) fund | (c) finding | (d) fend |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) off | (c) if | (d) for |
| 5. | (a) not | (b) none | (c) nor | (d) no |
| 6. | (a) highs | (b) heighten | (c) height | (d) high |
| 7. | (a) happens | (b) happening | (c) happened | (d) happen |
| 8. | (a) quickest | (b) quicken | (c) quick | (d) quickly |
| 9. | (a) faster | (b) fastest | (c) fasten | (d) fasts |
| 10. | (a) surfers | (b) surface | (c) suffice | (d) suffers |
| 11. | (a) feather | (b) further | (c) father | (d) farther |
| 12. | (a) uninhabitable | (b) habitat | (c) inedible | (d) uninvited |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Paragraph 1

1. new things about the aoetsmerph
2. a "cxoti cocktail" of chemicals
3. kill any living mgnirsao
4. the svdceiyor of the chemicals
5. in the esiervnu
6. UV tnoiaard

Paragraph 2

7. The icstsentsi tested what happens
8. geunho to kill
9. Our oiossetavbrn show
10. iyhhgl harmful to cells
11. their research was further eidceenv
12. much of the surface and near-surface engiros

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research was further
- (**1**) Scientists have discovered new things about the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They found a "toxic
- () surface of the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say the discovery
- () cocktail" of chemicals that would easily kill any living organism. The chemicals have been found on the
- () The scientists tested what happens when the chemicals found on Mars mix with UV radiation. They found it killed
- () radiation. The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape.
- () organisms very quickly. The chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals were
- () of the chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars has fallen. The scientists are
- () evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any form of plant life. They say the chemicals
- () show that the surface of present-day Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, caused
- () astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the universe that might support
- () mixed with UV rays, the mix killed organisms 11 times faster. The scientists said: "Our observations
- () life. The researchers said Mars had no Ozone layer, which means there are high levels of ultra-violet (UV)
- () and UV rays make, "much of the surface and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

1. the things new discovered have Scientists atmosphere about .
2. found that toxic would cocktail easily of kill chemicals a They .
3. surface the on found been have chemicals The .
4. fallen life The on chance Mars of has finding .
5. life support might that universe the in Environments .
6. on with When found mix radiation chemicals Mars UV the .
7. enough The to chemicals kill alone living were organisms .
8. The present Mars harmful of day highly surface - is .
9. their that added They evidence further was research .
10. surface The life plant of form any to deadly is Mars of .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Scientists have *discovered* / *discovery* new things about the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They found a "toxic cocktail" of *chemical* / *chemicals* that would easily kill *many* / *any* living organism. The chemicals have *been* / *being* found on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say the *discovery* / *discover* of the chemicals means the chance of finding *alive* / *life* on Mars has fallen. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the *atmospheric* / *atmosphere* and environments in the universe that might *support* / *supporting* life. The researchers said Mars had no ozone layer, which means there are *height* / *high* levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The mix *of* / *off* UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape.

The scientists tested what *happening* / *happens* when the chemicals found on Mars mix with UV radiation. They found it killed *organs* / *organisms* very quickly. The chemicals *alone* / *lonely* were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals were *mixture* / *mixed* with UV rays, the mix killed organisms 11 times *faster* / *fastest*. The scientists said: "Our observations show that the surface of present-day Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, *cause* / *caused* by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research was *farther* / *further* evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any *form* / *from* of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays *do* / *make*, "much of the surface and near-surface *regional* / *regions* uninhabitable".

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/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Sc__nt_sts h_v_ d_sc_v_r_d n_w th_ngs _b__t th_ _tm_sph_r_ _nd _nv_r_nm_nt _n M_rs. Th_y f__nd "t_x_c_c_ckt__l" _f ch_m_c_ls th_t w__ld __s_ly k_ll _ny l_v_ng _rg_n_sm. Th_ ch_m_c_ls h_v_ b__n f__nd _n th_ s_rf_c_ _f th_ R_d Pl_n_t. Th_ sc__nt_sts, fr_m _d_nb_rgh _n_v_rs_ty _n th_ _K, s_y th_ d_sc_v_ry _f th_ ch_m_c_ls m__ns th_ ch_nc_ _f f_ndng l_f_ _n M_rs h_s f_ll_n. Th_ sc__nt_sts _r_ _str_b__l_g_sts - th_y st_dy th_ _tm_sph_r_ _nd _nv_r_nm_nts _n th_ _n_v_rs_ th_t m_gh_t s_pp_r_t l_f_. Th_ r_s__rch_rs s__d M_rs h_d n_ _z_n_ l_y_r, wh_ch m__ns th_r_ _r_ h_gh l_v_ls _f ltr_v__l_t (_V) r_d__t__n. Th_ m_x_f _V r_d__t__n _nd th_ ch_m_c_ls st_r_l_z_d th_ M_rt__n l_ndsc_p_.

Th_ sc__nt_sts t_st_d wh_t h_pp_ns wh_n th_ ch_m_c_ls f__nd _n M_rs m_x_w_th _V r_d__t__n. Th_y f__nd t_k_ll_d _rg_n_sms v_ry q__ckly. Th_ ch_m_c_ls _l_n_w_r_ _n_gh_t k_ll l_v_ng _rg_n_sms. H_w_v_r, wh_n th_ ch_m_c_ls w_r_m_x_d w_th _V r_ys, th_ m_x_k_ll_d _rg_n_sms 11 t_m_s f_st_r. Th_ sc__nt_sts s__d: "_r_ _bs_rv_t__ns sh_w th_t th_ s_rf_c_ _f pr_s_nt-d_y M_rs _s h_ghly [h_rmf_l] t_c_lls, c__s_d by _t_x_c_c_ckt__l _f [ch_m_c_ls] _nd _V r_d__t__n." Th_y _dd_d th_t th_ r_s__rch_w_s f_rth_r_v_d_nc_ th_t th_ s_rf_c_ _f M_rs _s d__dly t__ny f_rm _f pl_nt l_f_. Th_y s_y th_ ch_m_c_ls _nd _V r_ys m_k_, "m_ch _f th_ s_rf_c_ _nd n__r-s_rf_c_ _r_g__ns _n_nh_b_t_bl_".

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

scientists have discovered new things about the atmosphere and environment on mars they found a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals that would easily kill any living organism the chemicals have been found on the surface of the red planet the scientists from edinburgh university in the uk say the discovery of the chemicals means the chance of finding life on mars has fallen the scientists are astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the universe that might support life the researchers said mars had no ozone layer which means there are high levels of ultra-violet (uv) radiation the mix of uv radiation and the chemicals sterilized the martian landscape

the scientists tested what happens when the chemicals found on mars mix with uv radiation they found it killed organisms very quickly the chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms however when the chemicals were mixed with uv rays the mix killed organisms 11 times faster the scientists said "our observations show that the surface of present-day mars is highly [harmful] to cells caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and uv radiation" they added that their research was further evidence that the surface of mars is deadly to any form of plant life they say the chemicals and uv rays make "much of the surface and near-surface regions uninhabitable"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Scientists have discovered new things about the atmosphere and environment on Mars. They found a "toxic cocktail" of chemicals that would easily kill any living organism. The chemicals have been found on the surface of the Red Planet. The scientists, from Edinburgh University in the UK, say that the discovery of the chemicals means the chance of finding life on Mars has fallen. The scientists are astrobiologists – they study the atmosphere and environments in the universe that might support life. The researchers said Mars had no ozone layer, which means there are high levels of ultra-violet (UV) radiation. The mix of UV radiation and the chemicals sterilized the Martian landscape. The scientists tested what happens when the chemicals found on Mars mix with UV radiation. They found it killed organisms very quickly. The chemicals alone were enough to kill living organisms. However, when the chemicals were mixed with UV rays, the mix killed organisms 11 times faster. The scientists said: "Our observations show that the surface of present-day Mars is highly [harmful] to cells, caused by a toxic cocktail of [chemicals] and UV radiation." They added that their research was further evidence that the surface of Mars is deadly to any form of plant life. They say the chemicals and UV rays make, "much of the surface and near-surface regions uninhabitable".

FREE WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

Write about **life on Mars** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1707/170711-life-on-mars.html>

What would change if we found life on Mars? Would it be good or bad?

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

4. LIFE ON MARS: Write a magazine article about life on Mars. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 life on Mars. Ask him/her three questions about life on Mars. Give him/her three of your ideas. 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 F c T d F e T f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. discovered | a. found |
| 2. toxic | b. poisonous |
| 3. discovery | c. finding |
| 4. chance | d. possibility |
| 5. landscape | e. terrain |
| 6. tested | f. examined |
| 7. enough | g. sufficient |
| 8. harmful | h. damaging |
| 9. further | i. more |
| 10. regions | j. areas |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A toxic cocktail
2. The Red Planet
3. Edinburgh University
4. Astrobiologists
5. An ozone layer
6. Very quickly
7. 11 times faster
8. It is highly harmful to cells
9. Plant life
10. Uninhabitable

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)