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Level 4 – 29th December, 2019

Satellites may obscure our views of the stars

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

Astronomers fear our view of the stars will be obscured. Their warning is because of thousands of satellites going into orbit in 2020. These will provide high-speed Internet worldwide. Space will be so littered with satellites they will compete with stars for our attention. They will form "mega-constellations" that could affect radio astronomy and the quality of telescope images. The satellites will appear as dazzling white light that could be mistaken for stars.

Experts say over 46,000 satellites will go into space in the next few years. An astrophysicist called this a "tragedy". It is five times more than those launched since Sputnik 1, six decades ago. The satellites will provide much faster Internet speeds and greater connectivity to the remotest areas of the world. About 14 million Americans live in rural areas with zero Internet coverage. SpaceX will launch 120 satellites in January and a further 12,000 in the next decade.

Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/14/spacex-oneweb-and-amazon-to-launch-thousands-more-satellites-in-2020s.html>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-50870117>
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/First_launch_of_UKs_OneWeb_satellites_from_Baikonur_now_set_for_30_Jan_999.html

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. our view of the stars | a. white light |
| 2. thousands of satellites | b. for our attention |
| 3. These will provide high- | c. for stars |
| 4. compete with stars | d. speed Internet |
| 5. They will form | e. images |
| 6. the quality of telescope | f. "mega-constellations" |
| 7. satellites will appear as dazzling | g. going into orbit |
| 8. could be mistaken | h. will be obscured |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. over 46,000 satellites | a. rural areas |
| 2. An astrophysicist called | b. connectivity |
| 3. greater | c. decade |
| 4. to the remotest areas | d. 120 satellites |
| 5. 14 million Americans live in | e. will go into space |
| 6. zero Internet | f. of the world |
| 7. launch | g. this a "tragedy" |
| 8. in the next | h. coverage |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

Astronomers (1) _____ of the stars will be obscured. Their warning is because of thousands of satellites (2) _____ in 2020. These will provide high-speed Internet worldwide. Space will be (3) _____ satellites they will compete with stars for our attention. They will (4) _____ that could affect radio astronomy and the quality (5) _____. The satellites will appear as (6) _____ that could be mistaken for stars.

Experts say over 46,000 satellites will go (7) _____ the next few years. An astrophysicist called (8) _____. It is five times more than those launched since Sputnik 1, (9) _____.

The satellites will provide much faster Internet speeds (10) _____ to the remotest areas of the world. About 14 million Americans live in rural (11) _____ Internet coverage. SpaceX will launch 120 satellites in January and a further 12,000 in (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

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SATELLITES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about satellites 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1912/191229-satellites-4.html>

Write about **satellites** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
