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Level 0 – 16th February 2023

White House says no aliens in weather balloons

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-0.html>

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Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-0.html>

Strange things are happening 12,000 metres above the USA. Fighter jets have shot down four balloons. They were a danger to airplanes. The White House said the balloons were not linked to aliens. It said the American people didn't need to worry about aliens because of the balloons.

The USA and China sent each other tit-for-tat messages. The US thinks the balloons are spy balloons. There is no proof of this. China said the balloons are for checking the weather, not for spying. China said US balloons have flown in China's airspace over ten times in the past year. The USA said this was not true.

Sources: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-14/spy-balloon-alien-white-house-china-surveillance-aircraft/101969384>
<https://theconversation.com/no-indication-of-aliens-spy-balloon-saga-continues-to-surprise-amid-rising-us-china-tension-199769>
<https://english.news.cn/20230205/fbbeecffa7ff48119880de4170d97495/c.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-0.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Strange things are | a. down four balloons |
| 2. 12,000 metres | b. to aliens |
| 3. fighter | c. of the balloons |
| 4. shot | d. above the USA |
| 5. They were a danger | e. need to worry |
| 6. the balloons were not linked | f. jets |
| 7. American people didn't | g. to airplanes |
| 8. because | h. happening |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. sent each other tit-for-tat | a. the past year |
| 2. the balloons | b. spying |
| 3. There is no proof | c. are spy balloons |
| 4. the balloons are for checking | d. was not true |
| 5. not for | e. messages |
| 6. US balloons have flown | f. the weather |
| 7. over ten times in | g. in China's airspace |
| 8. The USA said this | h. of this |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-0.html>

(1) _____ happening 12,000 metres above the
USA. (2) _____ shot down four balloons. They
were (3) _____ airplanes. The White House said
the balloons were (4) _____ aliens. It said the
American (5) _____ to worry about aliens
(6) _____ balloons.

The USA and China (7) _____ tit-for-tat
messages. The US (8) _____ are spy balloons.
There is (9) _____ this. China said the balloons
(10) _____ the weather, not for spying. China
said US balloons (11) _____ China's airspace over
ten times in the past year. The USA said this
(12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-0.html>

Strangethingsarehappening12,000metresabovetheUSA.Fighterjets
haveshotdownfourballoons.Theywereadangertoairplanes.TheWhite
Housesaidtheballoonswerenotlinkedtoaliens.ItsaidtheAmericanpeo
pledidn'tneedtoworryaboutaliensbecauseoftheballoons.TheUSAand
Chinasenteachothertit-for-tatmessages.TheUSthinkstheballoonsar
espyballoons.Thereisnoproofofthis.Chinasaidtheballoonsareforchec
kingtheweather,notforspying.ChinasaidUSballoonshaveflowninChi
na'sairspaceovertentimesinthepastyear.TheUSAidthiswasnottru
e.

BALLOONS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2302/230216-balloons-aliens-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about balloons 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) _____

