

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 10

#96 Can we live on Mars?

Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, listening and writing skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Have you thought of leaving the Earth to live on Mars?

Qt 2: Why is NASA very certain that humans can live on Mars in the future?

Qt 3: Why are scientists interested in exploring putting human beings to live on Mars but not other planets?

Qt 4: Did you know that some forms of life on Earth can live for a very long time?

The answers to Qts 2 and 3 will be provided at the next set of Daily English Practice exercises.

Vocabulary

1. rover (noun): a strong vehicle for use on steep mountain slopes
2. vista (noun): the future
3. blast off (phrasal verb): to leave the ground to enter space
4. twilight (adjective): late, advanced
5. habitat (noun): the natural environment that plants and animals live

The following is/are answer(s) to relevant question(s) in the preceding set of exercises "Population Crisis in China":

Qt 2: According to Yi Fuxian, researcher at University of Wisconsin-Madison, the change of China's one-child policy to two-children did not solve the problem and the country may have started to see a long-lasting fall in its population.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Can we live on Mars one day? The National Aeronautics and Space Administration of USA is certain about this. Read the following article posted on USA Today on 11 June 2018 to learn why:

Could humans live on Mars? 'Absolutely,' a NASA expert says

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/11/could-humans-live-mars-nasa-expert/690476002/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

To learn more about the possibility of living on Mars, listen to the following short video clip while practicing your listening skills:

Could humans live on Mars? 'Absolutely,' a NASA expert says

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/11/could-humans-live-mars-nasa-expert/690476002/>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the nice description in the following sentence in the main text?

*After the "building blocks of life" were discovered on the Red Planet, life on Mars and living on Mars seems to be less like a scene from the movie *The Martian* and more like a reality.*

Obviously, "building blocks" simply refer to the essential components of a structure but not really the blocks of a building. This comparison gives the subject an interesting description in the sentence. At the same time, it clearly tells that the essential elements for the existence of life are found on Mars. Another demonstration of the use of this figurative description is as follows:

Honesty and mutual respect form the building blocks of a good friendship.

Can you write a sentence of your own using this expression "building blocks"? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.