

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

Week 10

#100 Can we live on the Moon?

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

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Try to answer the following questions before you read the main article:

Qt 1: Do you want to travel to the Moon for sight-seeing or even to live there?

Qt 2: Are you aware of any evidence that the Moon was once suitable for living by human beings?

Qt 3: If the Moon was ever suitable for living, when was that?

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

Vocabulary

1. the smash up (noun): traffic accident
2. yield (verb): produce
3. inhospitable (adjective): not friendly to visitors
4. replenished (adjective): filled up with contents again
5. cling on (phrasal verb): to try to keep something
6. era (noun): a period of time that characterizes the development of something or its important stage
7. bombardment (noun): continuous attacks
8. ingredients (noun): component elements of something
9. yield (verb): produce
10. microbes (noun): tiny living creatures only observable under the microscope

The following is/are answer(s) to relevant question(s) in the preceding set of exercises "Why is China eager to explore a strange part of the Moon":

Qt 1: The Fermi paradox is the famous question asked by the Italian physicist Enrico Fermi about why we have not spotted any sign of aliens in the universe if there are many of them.

Qt 2: Although the moon is full of helium, it is too expensive to transport it back to the earth.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Read the article posted by Discovery Magazine on the web to find out the possibility of living on the Moon:

Life on the Moon? Maybe long ago by John Wenz, published: Monday, July 23, 2018
<http://www.astronomy.com/news/2018/07/life-on-the-moon>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Practice your listening skills with the YouTube video quoted below:

5 Aliens Life Forms on Moon and Mars Caught By NASA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWdsGfzdReU>

PART 4: Pronunciation Skills

How do you read the phrase “smash up”? Do you read it as two words “smash – up” or “smashup” as if they was only one word?

In English, we tend to link up two words in pronunciation when they can form a consonant-vowel or vowel-consonant sequence. In this case, it is a consonant – vowel sequence, i.e., sh (consonant) – u (vowel) such that the two sounds should be read as “shu” as if they appear in one word. Some examples of this linking up in pronunciation are:

Get on with it. (ge – **ton** wi – **thi**– t)
Throw away. (thro – **wa** –way)
First of all. (firs – **to** – **fall**)
Above ve all. (abo – **vea** – ll)

Applying this linking makes pronunciation easy and smooth when you speak. There are also other interesting rules you can apply to help you speak more fluently in English. Just book a half-hour Guidance Session with the SEE U teachers for a discussion. In the meantime, think of three more examples other than the above to share with your SEE U teachers.

PART 5: Writing Practice

Did you realize some words in the main article are spelt in American English? Two examples quoted from the main text are as follows:

- *And just after the smash up, there was lots of water **vapor** in the Moon.*
- *A lunar exploration **program** could yield greater evidence for lunar life, including the possibility of fossilized microbes trapped in rock.*

American English spellings tend to be shorter and easier to write, e.g., program and vapor, whereas British English spellings are usually longer, i.e., programme and vapour. Some more examples in the sequence of British – American spellings are:

colour – color
labour – labor
neighbour – neighbor
travelling – traveling
honour – honor

Besides word length, there are other notable differences in spelling, pronunciation, word use and grammar between British and American Englishes as well. If you wish to know more about this interesting language phenomenon, come and book a 5-minute Guidance Session to discuss with our SEE U teachers by sending an e-mail to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Before you come, be ready with at least five words which are spelt differently in British English and American English.

Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you help.