

Unit 23

Alien invasion: Is There Really Such a Thing?

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Pre-reading

1. Use your imagination to draw an alien.
2. How much do you know about Superman (Clark Kent) and his birth planet Krypton?
3. Have you ever heard of Area 51?
4. Are all aliens bad guys, who want to attack us, as described in most **sci-fi** movies? Or are they good guys, who wish to communicate with us?

With the coming of the year 2000, there is a growing worldwide interest in **extraterrestrial** life. When the **Hale-Bopp comet** came by in 1997, many people got crazy over it. Some believed that it meant the end of the world while others consider Hale-Bopp an alien spaceship or alien invasion.

5 Are we alone in the universe? That's the question scientists are trying to answer. There are billions of stars in our **galaxy**. What are the chances that one of them has a planet that can support life like ours? Many scientists believe that life has **evolved** in other worlds and extraterrestrial **intelligence**, probably far more advanced than our own, is somewhere out there. It is possible that we
10 have been visited--or will be visited--by great alien **civilizations**. That's why the **Pyramids** and the **Sphinx** at **Giza**, Egypt were thought to be built by aliens. In America, there is a group called SETI trying to "search for extraterrestrial intelligence."

Every year many people see something they do not **recognize** and think
15 that it is a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object). During the past fifty years, many **contactees** have reported about UFO **sightings**. Some even claim that they are aliens or were once **kidnapped** and "implanted" something into their brains by aliens. In the U.S., there is a 24-hour "UFO-hotline" for people to call in to describe their UFO **encounters**.

20 What do aliens look like? Are Martians green creatures with pointy ears and exposed frontal lobes as in Mars Attacks? Or are skinny, huge-eye aliens in human form? Before we talk about the recent alien-mania in the TV series and sci-fi movies, let's first take a look at a **flying saucer allegedly** fallen to the Earth a half century ago.

25 (A) **The Roswell Incident**

On the same day (July 4, 1997) when the Earth invaded Mars, hundreds of thousands of **UFOlogists** and believers flocked to a desert ranch at Roswell, New Mexico to remember the golden anniversary of the alien landing.

Most of these buffs believed that in mid-June or early July 1947, a spaceship **crashed** near Roswell and the government took away the **remains** along with four dead aliens and studied them in the Area 51, a top-secret US Air Force base in the desert of Nevada. Area 51 appears several times on Fox's **5** The X-Files and is the setting for much of the movie Independence Day. In 1989, an Army officer said that he had been researching alien ships there. The little town Rachel, Nevada, is now the world's UFO **capital**.

Recently the US government claims that there was no UFO **crash** near Roswell in 1947. Instead, the aircraft was just a new jet, hot-air or weather balloons being tested by the Air Force. **10** Needless to say, UFO buffs think that the **crash** is far from a product of imagination and that it's just the government's **conspiracy** to cover up the truth. Whatever the fact is, the local **residents** of Roswell have already made much money from Roswell's growing fame by selling alien dolls, T-shirts, cookies, water, etc.

Mini-dictionary

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. alien (n.) 外星人 | 15. contactee (n)
自稱與外星人接觸過者 |
| 2. invasion (n) 入侵 | 16. UFO sightings 目擊幽浮 |
| 3. sci-fi (n =science-fiction) 科幻 | 18. anniversary (n) 週年紀念日 |
| 4. extraterrestrial (n.& adj) 外星人
(的) | 18. kidnap (v) 綁架 |
| 5. Hale-Bopp comet 海爾鮑普彗星 | 19. implant (v) 植入 |
| 6. evolve (v) 進化；發展 | 20. flying saucer (n.) 飛碟 |
| 7. galaxy (n) 銀河系 | 21. encounter (n) 邂逅；碰見 |
| 8. intelligence (n) 聰明才智 | 22. allegedly (adv) 據傳聞地 |
| 9. civilizations (n) 文明 | 23. UFOlogist (n) 幽浮學家 |
| 10. Giza (n) 埃及基沙，近開羅 | 24. crash (v & n) 墜毀 |
| 11. Pyramids 金字塔 | 25. remains (n) 殘骸 |
| 12. Sphinx 人面獅身像 | 26. capital (n) 首都 |
| 13. SETI (n) 尋找外星高智生命 | 27. conspiracy (n.) 陰謀 |
| 14. recognize (v) 分辨 | 28. resident (n) 居民 |

(B) Alien-Mania in Mass Media

Besides Babylon 5 and Star Trek, The X-Files is also a very popular TV series about aliens and space. The story centers on two FBI agents Dana Scully and Fox Mulder. The former is a skeptic; the latter, a believer. Mulder thinks that aliens are living in American society but the government keeps it secret. The show's famous lines are "The truth is out there" and "Trust no one."

Up to now, Hollywood has produced more than a dozen science-fiction movies. Although Steven Spielberg deals with the wonder of **interplanetary** communication in Close Encounters of the Third Kind and E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, the movie Independence Day is about the warlike creatures' coming to the Earth to take over. The latest space movies are Men in Black and Contact. MIB is about a team called "Men in Black", which acts as a sort of **immigration bureau** for the 1,500 extraterrestrial on the Earth. The two secret agents' job is to kill bad aliens before they do harm. As for Jodie Foster's Contact, it tells the story of an **astronomer**, who hears radio signals from outer space and attempts to communicate with extraterrestrial life.

If something really happened at Roswell in 1947, it surely changes our view of the universe and it will be **arrogant** of humans to think of ourselves as the only life form. However, if aliens should invade the Earth, what we can say is "May the force be with us."

Mini-dictionary

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. mania (n) 狂熱 | 5. interplanetary (adj) 星球間 |
| 2. series (n) 影集 | 6. immigration bureau (n) 移民局 |
| 3. Star Trek (n) 星際爭霸戰、銀河飛龍 | 7. astronomer (n) 天文學家 |
| 4. agent (n) 探員 | 8. arrogant (adj) 傲慢自大 |

Grammar

- A.** consider A (to be) B =regard A as B= think of A as B “把 A 認為 B”
* Some parents consider money a symbol of love.
= Some parents _____ money _____ a symbol of love.
- B.** 數詞 (one, two...) + dozen/hundred/thousand/million/billion + 複數名詞
dozens of/hundreds of/thousands of/millions of /billions of + 複數名詞
* Thousand of students go to our school every year. (改錯)
* 臺灣有兩千一百萬人口 (翻譯)
-
- C.** the former(=that)...the latter (=this) 「前者...後者」
* He has a cat and a dog; the former (=that) is afraid the latter (=this).
- D.** 1. 未來可能性極大的假設
If + S + V (現在式)..., S + can / shall / may / will + V 原
* If it **is** fine tomorrow, I **will** go with you.
2. 對未來極不可能的假設 (萬一)
If + S + should + V 原..., S + can / shall / may / will + V 原
或 S + could/ should/ might / would + V 原
* If E.T. should invade the earth, what should mankind do?
* I will [would] try again, if I _____ fail this time.
- E.** May + 人 + V 原 = I wish 人 + N = (I wish) + N + to + 人 「祝」
May you succeed. = I wish you success. = (I wish) Success to you.
“May the force be with us.” 改自 Star Wars 的 “May the force be with you.” 在電影中，Force (force) 是一種超自然力量，可以幫助那些在太空旅行的地球人，戰勝所有的邪惡。

Exercise

- A. Match Each Movie with its Story.**
1. Independence Day 2. Space Jam 3. Star Wars
- a) The small aliens try to kidnap Bugs Bunny (兔寶寶), who asks Michael Jordan to help him win the space creatures in a basketball game.
- b) It's about an evil empire trying to rule the galaxy, where exists a magic

- power “Force”, and the brave people trying to stop this happening.
- c) The warlike creatures coming to the earth to take over and the American President leads people on the Earth to fight.

B. Blank-filling

1. 難怪：no _____ 2. 不用說：_____ to say
 3. 隱瞞：_____ up 4. 根據：_____ to
 5. 處理：_____ with 6. 當作：act _____

Appendix
Sci-fi Movies on Aliens & Martians

English Title	電影中譯名	English Title	電影中譯名
2001: A Space Odyssey	2001 年太空漫遊	Men in Black	MIB 星際戰警
The Arrival	外星人入侵	Phenomenon	第三類奇蹟
Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind	第三類接觸	Space Jam	怪物奇兵
Contact	星際接觸	Starship Troopers	星艦戰將
E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial	E.T. 外星人	Star Wars	星際大戰
Independence Day	ID4 星際終結者	To the End of Time	星際時空大戰
Mars Attacks	星戰毀滅者	Total Recall	魔鬼總動員

People who are interested in aliens and UFO can visit the websites below:

- [http:// www. abcnews.com/sections/scitech/marsorbust/mars-touchdown.html](http://www.abcnews.com/sections/scitech/marsorbust/mars-touchdown.html)
[http:// www. cuafo.org.tw/cuafo.html](http://www.cuafo.org.tw/cuafo.html) (中華飛碟學研究會)
[http:// www. discovery.com/area/discoverynews/news1.html](http://www.discovery.com/area/discoverynews/news1.html)
[http:// www. iufomrc.com/](http://www.iufomrc.com/) (世界要幽浮博物館)
[http:// www. nasa. gov.](http://www.nasa.gov) (美國太空總署)
[http:// www. nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/photo-gallery-Mars.html](http://www.nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/photo-gallery-Mars.html)
[http:// pathfinder.com/ Babylone 5](http://pathfinder.com/Babylone5)
[http://www. starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com) (Star Wars 星際大戰)