

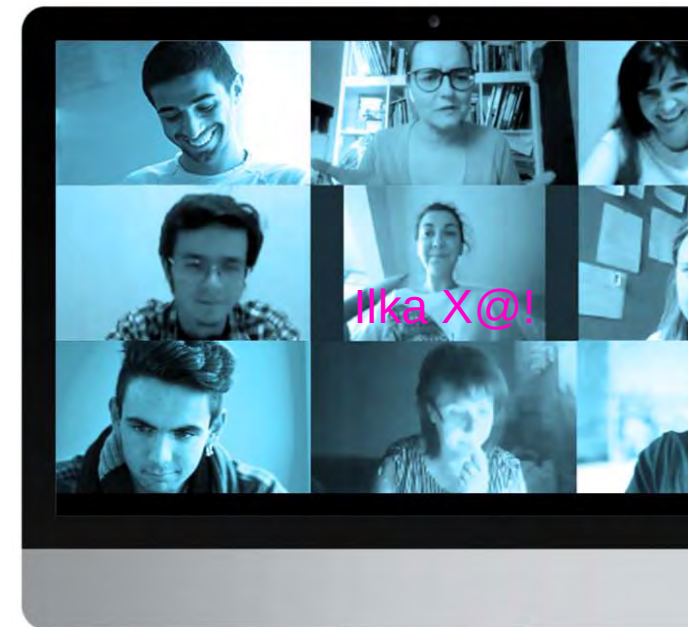
# Aliens

Theme:  
The world of tomorrow

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# Before we start, please make sure...

- ✓ **your name on Zoom is clear (use Latin letters)**
- ✓ **your camera is on and mic is off (unmute when needed)**
- ✓ **you are in a quiet area that helps you focus**
- ✓ **you have a notebook or a note app ready to take notes**

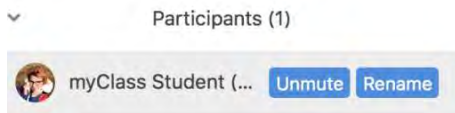


# Zoom features

Check your audio and video settings



Use Latin letters for your name

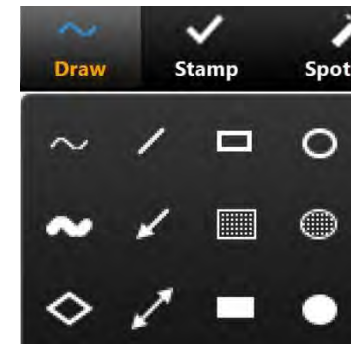


Ask questions in the Chat or use Reactions

Share Screen when the teacher asks



Use Annotate when a screen is shared



Use Save to make screenshots

# Welcome to English Online



## How does it work?

**You need to complete all three parts to get the most out of English Online.**

Prepare before class



Live class  
+  
After-class speaking session  
(optional)



Practise after class

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# After-class speaking session

**Stay back after class for 5 or 10 minutes to talk to your classmates from around the world.**

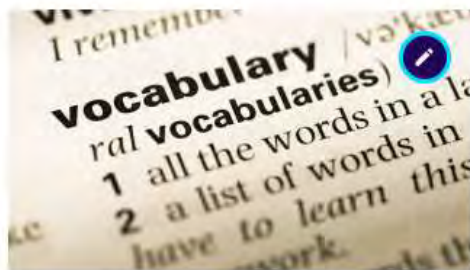
**This extra speaking practice will help you...**

- improve your conversation skills
- practise using language learnt in class
- support and help your fellow students
- practise using English in a natural context
- become a part of a global learning community



# Pre-lesson activities

Prepare before class



An article on intelligent life on planets



An article on intelligent life on planets



Phrases related to expressing probability



Conditional forms



Conditional forms

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## Lesson objective

**What do you expect to learn by the end of this class?**



# Lesson objectives

In this **live** part of the lesson, you will take part in a mini-debate for and against the existence of intelligent alien life in the universe.

You will also review and practise language for talking about probability and some conditional forms that you learned **before** the lesson.

## **Highlighted skills:**

Speaking (live class) and reading (before the lesson)

## **Language focus:**

**Vocabulary:** aliens

**Functional language:** talking about probability

**Grammar:** conditionals



## Lead-in



**Do you agree? Compare your ideas with your partner(s).**

- a** UFO stands for unidentified flying object.
- b** Believing in aliens is similar to believing in ghosts, miracles and fairies.
- c** The sheer number of alien sightings suggests that we are not alone.
- d** Science fiction films from 20 years ago now reflect reality.
- e** Aliens are always depicted in the same way for a good reason.
- f** It is absurd to even consider the possibility of alien life.
- g** The number of UFO sightings has lessened since the end of the cold war.
- h** In the last 100 years people have increasingly begun to believe in intelligent alien life.

# Language focus

## Do you remember these rules about conditionals?

### Zero conditional

Form = *if* +  +  in the main clause

Use = to describe a

### First conditional

Form = *if* +  +  in the main clause

Use = to describe what is  in the present or future

### Second conditional

Form = *if* +  + *would / could* +  in the main clause

Use = to talk about something that is contrary to the present facts or is seen as

# Language focus

**Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.**

- a** If I saw flashing lights and a spherical object alighting in a field on my way home tonight ...
- b** If it's possible to travel cheaply into space in my lifetime ...
- c** If I were a cosmologist ...
- d** If the alien life we are searching for turns out to be hostile ...
- e** If I was in charge of the budget for space exploration ...
- f** Supposing we are indeed alone in the universe ...

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# Task



## Task preparation

**You are going to take part in a mini-debate about the probability of intelligent alien life in the universe.**

Your teacher will give you 3 arguments for or against alien life. With your partner(s), scan the texts to identify the main point of each argument and be ready to make it in your own words.



# Task preparation

## **Student A:** Arguments for intelligent alien life

### **Extremophiles**

Scientists have recently expanded their notion of the diversity of possible life and its hardiness generally. Microbes have been discovered that can survive in extremely hostile environments. These 'extremophiles' are resistant to levels of heat, cold, salt, acidity and radiation that would be fatal to humans. By extension, alien life could well exist in the kind of extreme environment previously thought the norm for other planets, making their existence more plausible.

### **Exoplanets**

Just in the past decade, scientists have discovered hundreds of exoplanets beyond our galaxy. Many of them are small, rocky worlds like Earth and orbiting in the 'Goldilocks zone' around their stars, which means they orbit at a distance producing similar temperatures to Earth. This represents an explosion in the number of planets thought to have conditions conducive to life and, as such, the existence of aliens is inevitable.

### **Rare earth theory**

People against the idea of intelligent alien life attest to the rarity of the trajectory of life on Earth. They look back at the 4 billion years of bio-chemical engineering that led to human organisms and conclude that it was an almost impossible outcome. However, we do not have enough information about other worlds to make an assertion like that. We cannot know how things evolved elsewhere because we have no other model. We simply do not know how rare or not our evolution is and the chances are it is not that rare and that aliens exist elsewhere.

# Task preparation

## **Student B:** Arguments against intelligent alien life

### **Freak occurrence**

The process that biologically led to intelligent life on earth was a kind of fluke. The move from single-cell life to more complex forms is by no means inevitable and was in fact a freak occurrence. Evolutionary bottlenecks explain the lack of alien life despite the vast number of other planets in the universe. Our genesis is incredibly unusual and probably unrepeatable.

### **Anthropic principle**

Although people imagine that intelligent life is probably a natural consequence of evolution, the anthropic principle suggests that this is not the case. In all likelihood, evolution is a random process with intelligence being only one of a considerable number of possible outcomes. Additionally, it is not certain that intelligent life, as opposed to single-cell life-like microbes, is built for long-term survival.

### **Lack of data**

It is faintly ridiculous to assert that something exists without evidence. And any calculation of the probability of intelligent alien life suffers from an extreme lack of data. Furthermore, we cannot conceive of how intelligent alien life might manifest itself since we have only one model to go on – Earth itself. It is self-delusory to imagine life exists on other planets just because it exists here. It's the height of arrogance to look for alien life in your own image.



# Task

**Try to use these phrases:**

**miniscule odds**

**the likelihood is (pretty) high**

**it seems inevitable**

**the chances are low**

**could well exist**

**ridiculous**

**in all likelihood**





# Feedback

# How can you make more progress?

**Complete the Practice activities online.**



**Revise the grammar rule we practiced today.**



<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/conditionals-1>

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# Lesson materials

## **Make sure you have**

- **downloaded the \*.pdf with this presentation**
- **saved the Zoom Chat**



# What's next?

**Book the next lesson in the theme.**

## The World of Tomorrow

6 lessons

Brighten your future by attending this theme. You'll learn about green tech, aliens and space. This is a great opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and really improve the dexterity of your English.



Green News



Being green



Working together



Green tech



Aliens



Life on mars

# After-class speaking session

**You can talk about any topic that interests you!**

**Use these questions as a guide, if needed.**

- What information would you include in a one page document for new arrivals to earth?
- Why do some people consider discovering new planets so important?
- Which movies about aliens have you seen?
- Would you like to travel to other planets? Why?
- When will it be possible for the public to travel to the moon?

For help, contact:

[support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org](mailto:support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org)

## **Dos**

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect
- ✓ Keep your camera on and on mute
- ✓ Let others share ideas too
- ✓ Listen to everyone
- ✓ Click 'Leave' if you cannot attend

## **Don'ts**

- ✗ Don't take pictures or recordings
- ✗ Don't share personal details
- ✗ Don't let your children be onscreen

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# What do you think?

Do you like the platform?

What did you think of the activities?

What further information do you need?

For more information, write to

**[support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org](mailto:support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org)**



# Teacher's Notes

This slide deck was made by Karolina Witkowska

## Notes

Share your thoughts about the lesson with the next teacher