

1 **Is it a bird, is it a plane or is it something from another world?**

2

3 What comes to mind when someone talks about a UFO? Do you think about the cover of a
4 science fiction novel and the image of mysterious bluish lights beaming down from it? Do you
5 think about a time when you were out late at night and you saw a flash of light, wondered
6 what it was only to realize a moment later that what you saw wasn't a UFO – was it just the
7 lights of a plane that was beginning its descent? Do you think of movies, or little green men,
8 cartoons, or do you just turn away shaking your head?

9 A lot of people discuss UFOs as flying saucers – it seems to be the best description that they
10 can come up with. Others suggest, rather dismissively, that UFO simply means unidentified
11 flying object and that the light that someone saw flashing in the sky was either a plane, a
12 helicopter or a reflection of light off of a cell phone tower or another metal object.

13 Reflections of light from a cell phone tower do little to explain away "mysterious materials"
14 found in Roswell, New Mexico in the late 1940s. While the United States military has always
15 stood their ground that these materials were merely fragments of a research balloon, a top-
16 secret test that ended badly, others offer another explanation. They assert that the materials
17 were fragments of a UFO, an alien craft that crashed. They believe that the "flying disc" could
18 not be something from this world, and so began one of the most talked about UFO encounters
19 in the world.

20 If the Roswell, New Mexico story had never become so widespread, UFO and flying saucer may
21 not be so common in our language, in novels, television programming, and films. How
22 common is it for people to see a UFO?

23 It's hard to say, really, because many people who see an unidentified flying object in the sky
24 are reluctant to report it. Either the person who saw a UFO believes that there is a far more
25 logical explanation or merely thinks that no one would believe them if they were to say
26 anything about it. And yet, there are UFO sightings that are shared and that become the topic
27 of conspiracy theories by those who believe that beings from other planets and galaxies have
28 visited the earth.

29 One such incident occurred in 1980 in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk, England. Those who saw
30 the UFO all claimed to have seen flashing lights coming from an unidentified flying object that
31 was descending towards the woods – a UFO that was roughly the size of a car and seemed to
32 float on a beam of light. After reports were made about the object, it was discovered that
33 trees were damaged, radio frequencies became nothing but static and soil samples later
34 showed radioactive activity.

35 Similarly, in Gulf Breeze, Florida in 1987 tales of a UFO began to circulate when a man saw a
36 strange light coming from his lawn. When he saw the flying saucer, he grabbed a camera and
37 started shooting photos as proof of what he had seen. Of course, in this situation, the story
38 was not just of a UFO sighting, but about repeated experiences and of the man being beamed
39 up onto the craft.



- 1 Though discussions of these UFO sightings continue, and there have been audio recordings and
- 2 photo documentation, it is still difficult to know whether or not the unidentified flying objects
- 3 were indeed from space. Many claimed, in regard to the Gulf Breeze, Florida UFO sightings,
- 4 that the man had manipulated the photographs and fabricated the story.

- 5 In each case, both sides – the believers and the skeptics – find evidence to support their
- 6 claims. Those who believe in UFOs and alien visitations cite facts that they claim cannot
- 7 otherwise be explained. Those who are skeptical offer their own explanations along with their
- 8 own supporting evidence. Which side is right? For now, that's up to you to decide.

Comprehension / Vocabulary Questions

1. How do some people describe UFOs?
2. Which word in the third paragraph means small pieces parts that have broken off from a larger object?
3. What alternative explanations do people give for UFO lights?
4. What was the official explanation for the incident in Roswell, New Mexico?
5. How common is it for people to see a UFO?
6. What did people see in Rendlesham Forest in 1980?
7. What type of evidence do people give in support of UFOs?
8. What happened in Florida in addition to a person seeing a UFO?
9. What do skeptics say about UFO sightings?
10. Throughout the text, the author used different adjectives and nouns to describe different types of light. What are they?

Gap Fill

While the United States military has always their ground that these materials were merely fragments of a research balloon, a top-secret test that ended, others offer another explanation. They that the materials were fragments of a UFO, an alien craft that crashed.

Those who saw the UFO all claimed to have seen lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was towards the woods – a UFO that was roughly the size of a car and seemed to float on a of light.

In 1987 tales of a UFO began to when a man saw a strange light coming from his lawn. When he saw the flying saucer, he grabbed a camera and started photos as proof of what he had seen. Of course, in this situation, the story was not just of a UFO sighting, but about repeated experiences and of the man being up onto the craft.



Answers

1. How do some people describe UFOs? **Some people describe UFOs as flying saucers.**
2. Which word in the third paragraph means small pieces parts that have broken off from a larger object? **Fragments.**
3. What alternative explanations do people give for UFO lights? **They are lights from a plane or helicopter, a reflection from a cell phone tower or other metal objects.**
4. What was the official explanation for the incident in Roswell, New Mexico? **The United States military insist that it was a weather balloon that crashed.**
5. How common is it for people to see a UFO? **It is difficult to say. People who see UFOs either dismiss them as another object or are reluctant to report it.**
6. What did people see in Rendlesham Forest in 1980? **They claimed to have seen flashing lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was descending towards the woods – a UFO that was roughly the size of a car and seemed to float on a beam of light.**
7. What type of evidence do people give in support of UFOs? **Photographs, damage to other objects such as trees, radio frequencies turned to static, radioactive activity, fragments.**
8. What happened in Florida in addition to a person seeing a UFO? **It was reported he was beamed up onto the spacecraft.**
9. What do skeptics say about UFO sightings? **That people fabricated the stories and manipulated photos.**
10. Throughout the text, the author used different adjectives and nouns to describe different types of light. What are they? **Flashing lights, a beam of light, a reflection of light, bluish light, a flash of light.**

Gap Fill

While the United States military has always **stood** their ground that these materials were merely fragments of a research balloon, a top-secret test that ended **badly**, others offer another explanation. They **assert** that the materials were fragments of a UFO, an alien craft that crashed.

Those who saw the UFO all claimed to have seen **flashing** lights coming from an unidentified flying object that was **descending** towards the woods – a UFO that was roughly the size of a car and seemed to float on a **beam** of light.

In 1987 tales of a UFO began to **circulate** when a man saw a strange light coming from his lawn. When he saw the flying saucer, he grabbed a camera and started **shooting** photos as proof of what he had seen. Of course, in this situation, the story was not just of a UFO sighting, but about repeated



Speaking Task – Role-play

Role 1

A few days ago you saw a UFO. It was a mysterious experience. Ever since the sighting, you have been telling people in your town. Some people believe you and others don't but you are sure what you saw was real. You are in the supermarket, shopping when a person approaches you and want to ask you about the experience.

Checklist:

- What did you see?
- What proof do you have?
- Answer the person's questions
- Listen to the person's explanations and give your opinions.

You must use the following words: beam, descend, fragments and craft.

Role 2

News is circulating in your town about a person who recently saw a UFO. You are very skeptical about these types of things but are interested to talk to the person. By chance, in the supermarket, you overhear a conversation and realize it is the person.

Checklist:

- Introduce yourself and ask the person about their experience
- Give them your opinion
- Ask for proof
- Give an alternative explanation for what they saw

You must use the following words: reluctant, fabricate, merely and circulate.

Debate Topics

- Aliens have visited Earth and live among us.
- Aliens exist but have not visited Earth.

Discussion Topic

- Why are photos of UFOs always bad quality?

Discussion Topic

- What proof would it take for you to believe in alien life?

Discussion Topic

- Mysteries can always be explained logically

Discussion Topic

- There is always some truth in every conspiracy theory



Mysterious	Proof	Widespread
Flashing	Beam	Craft
Merely	To descend	To dismiss
Reluctant	To manipulate	To fabricate
.....
Talk about... Seeing something you can't explain	Talk about... Your belief in aliens	Talk about... The strangest thing you have seen at night
Talk about... People who believe in conspiracy theories	Talk about... Conspiracy theories you believe in	Talk about... What proof you need to believe someone's UFO story

Writing Task

What?! You saw a UFO last night! I don't believe you.

Last night you saw a UFO. Write about your experience. Remember to include the following points:

- Where were you when it happened?
- What were you doing?
- What did you see exactly?
- What did you do after, who did you tell?

