

Practice Exercises

8 (3) UFOs: For and Against: Exercise A

Match the **FOR** statements at the top of the page with the **AGAINST** statements at the bottom of the page.

FOR

1. _____ We can demonstrate that alien life probably exists.
2. _____ It isn't unreasonable to think that such a civilization might have discovered a way to travel near or beyond the speed of light.
3. _____ There are many people who claim to have seen UFOs.
4. _____ We should keep our minds open to possibilities beyond our understanding.
5. _____ Scientific theories have been wrong before.

AGAINST

- (a) There is no evidence to indicate that anything can travel faster than the speed of light.
- (b) We must be able to find a balance between wishful thinking and fact. Otherwise our beliefs can be used against us.
- (c) The real issue is not the existence of life on other worlds.
- (d) Without a single exception, none of the reports of UFOs has ever been verified.
- (e) The fact that scientific theories have been wrong before doesn't mean we can say that anything is possible. We need evidence.

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8 (3) UFOs: For and Against: Exercise B

For each pair of sentences below, circle the letter next to the sentence which is made most strongly.

1. a) The Roswell video may be a clever fake.
b) The Roswell video is, in fact, a clever fake.
2. a) It isn't unreasonable to think that such a civilization might have discovered a way to travel near or beyond the speed of light.
b) It is likely that such a civilization will have discovered a way to travel near or beyond the speed of light.
3. a) A journey of this distance would be impractical for even an advanced civilization.
b) A journey of this distance might be impractical for even an advanced civilization.
4. a) If such a thing had happened, there would have been no way to cover it up.
b) If such a thing had happened, it would have been difficult to cover it up.
5. a) If we compare what we know now with what we knew two hundred years ago, we can be sure that there will be surprises in the future.
b) If we compare what we know now with what we knew two hundred years ago, we might expect that there will be surprises in the future.
6. a) There is no reason to believe that the American government could have hidden the truth for so long
b) It is unlikely that the American government would have hidden the truth for so long.

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8 (3) UFOs: For and Against: Exercise C

Choose the logical connector that best fits the context provided.

1. There is no reason to believe that we are unique in the universe.
(However, In fact) _____, some scientists estimate that as many as 10,000 advanced civilizations exist in our galaxy, the Milky Way.
2. There have been many reports of UFOs. **(However, On the contrary)** _____, none of these reports has ever been verified.
3. It is important to keep our minds open to possibilities beyond our understanding.
(On the other hand, On the contrary) _____, beliefs can sometimes be very dangerous.
4. The light barrier argument seems convincing. **(However, In fact)** _____, scientific arguments have been wrong before.
5. There is no reason to believe that anything can travel faster than the speed of light.
(On the other hand, On the contrary) _____, all the evidence indicates that faster-than-light travel is impossible.

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8 (3) UFOs: For and Against: Exercise D

Fill-in the blanks with the choice that best indicates the ordering of the sentences.

1. _____ scientific theories have been wrong before doesn't mean we can say that anything is possible. _____, there is no evidence to indicate that anything can travel faster than light. _____, all the evidence is against faster-than-light travel. _____ the most fundamental laws of nature.

(a) On the contrary (b) The fact that (c) For example (d) Otherwise (e) This is one of

2. The light barrier argument seems persuasive. However, _____ just a theory. Scientific _____ have been wrong before. An advanced alien _____ could be thousands of years older than we are. It isn't unreasonable to think that _____ a civilization might have discovered a way to travel near or beyond the speed of light.

(a) theories (b) it's (c) such (d) civilization (e) even if

3. Imagination is a great thing. _____, we must be able to find a balance between wishful thinking and fact. _____, our beliefs can be used against us. _____, the Aztecs believed that human sacrifice was necessary to insure that the sun would rise each day. _____, hundreds of thousands of people were killed.

(a) Otherwise (b) For example (c) However (d) Therefore (e) As a result

4. _____ the light barrier, interstellar space travel seems impractical. _____, there may be conditions where the light barrier doesn't apply, for example by traveling through another dimension. _____, we might yet see a real UFO.

(a) However (b) On the contrary (c) Because of (d) If that were possible