

Sentence Splits

An extension of "Why we need to protect life here on earth"

INSTRUCTIONS

The article "**Why we need to protect life here on earth**" contains several compound sentences (see page 19, *What's Up* October 2016). Some of these are given below. On the back of this handout, split each of the given sentences into two or three simpler sentences. See the example done below. Your sentences must be grammatically correct. When splitting, pay careful attention to the tenses and subject-verb agreements.

EXAMPLE

We are at a tipping point in human history, a species poised between gaining the stars and losing the planet we call home.

Split 1a: We are at a tipping point in human history.

Split 1b: We are a species poised between gaining the stars and losing the planet we call home.

1. NASA's Kepler mission has discovered thousands of potential planets around other stars, indicating that Earth is but one of billions of planets in our galaxy.
2. Kepler's data reveals planets' sizes as well as their distance from their parent star.
3. I study planetary habitability as influenced by stars, with the hope of finding the places in the universe where we might discover life beyond our own planet.
4. Mars is small and rocky, and though it is a bit far from the Sun, it might be considered a potentially habitable world if found by a mission like Kepler.
5. Orbiters like the MAVEN mission sample the Martian atmosphere, trying to understand how Mars might have lost its past habitability.
6. Private spaceflight companies now offer not just a short trip to near space but the tantalizing possibility of living our lives on Mars.
7. There are many excellent reasons to go to Mars, but for anyone to tell you that Mars will be there to back up humanity is like the captain of the Titanic telling you that the real party is happening later on the lifeboats.
8. If we truly believe in our ability to bend the hostile environments of Mars for human habitation, then we should be able to surmount the far easier task of preserving the habitability of the Earth.