



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

The World of Avatar

电影：阿凡达

## The World of Avatar 电影：阿凡达

### An Alien Language 外星人的语言

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

The **blockbuster** film Avatar has been a **smash hit** at the box office in the UK and around the world, becoming the fastest film ever to earn \$1bn (7bn yuan) in ticket sales.

But as well as being an entertaining **feast for the eyes**, the **sci-fi epic** also introduces movie-goers to a brand new language invented especially for the film.

The movie is set on an alien planet called Pandora which is **inhabited** by many strange **species**. The most **humanoid** of the planet's inhabitants are the Na'vi, and it is the struggle between the Na'vi and human **interlopers** that forms the **core narrative** of the film.

In order to **add authenticity** to his vision of an **alien race** the film's director James Cameron asked a professor of **linguistics** from the University of Southern California to invent a language for the Na'vi.

Professor Paul Frommer worked with James Cameron for four years to build upon the original 30 words or so that the director had already **come up with** for the language.

According to Professor Frommer, the most important aspect of the Na'vi language was that it could be **articulated**.

"This is an alien language but obviously it has to be spoken by human actors," Professor Frommer told the BBC, "it has to be sounds that human beings are comfortable producing."

The language currently has a **lexicon** of around 1,000 words but Professor Frommer hopes to expand it in possible **sequels** to the film and in video games.

The professor hopes that one day his creation will become as **sophisticated** as the **Klingon** alien language from the **Star Trek** films.

"There's a translation of **Hamlet** into Klingon," says Professor Frommer.

"If anything happened like this with Na'vi I'd be delighted."

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>blockbuster</b> – 热门电影	<b>smash hit</b> – 非常受欢迎的
<b>feast for the eyes</b> – 视觉大餐	<b>sci-fi epic</b> – 科幻史诗
<b>inhabited</b> – 居住	<b>species</b> – 种类, 种族
<b>humanoid</b> – 具有人类特点的	<b>interlopers</b> – 入侵者
<b>core narrative</b> – 主要故事	<b>add authenticity</b> – 增加真实性
<b>alien race</b> – 外星人	<b>linguistics</b> – 语言学
<b>come up with</b> – 想出	<b>articulated</b> – 发音
<b>lexicon</b> – 词汇	<b>sequels</b> - 续集
<b>sophisticated</b> – 高水平的	<b>Klingon</b> -克林贡帝国 (星际迷航中虚构的一个好战外星种族)
<b>Star Trek</b> – 星际大战	<b>Hamlet</b> – 哈姆雷特

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Avatar is the most profitable film ever made. **True / False**
2. The film introduces an alien race called the Pandora. **True / False**
3. The aliens come to Earth to make friends. **True / False**
4. It took four years to develop the alien language. **True / False**
5. There are about 1000 words in the language. **True / False**

## 2. Space Idioms 关于太空的成语

Match the phrase on the left with the definition on the right.

请把以下成语和其解释连线。

- |                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. out of this world      | a. naïve and over-enthusiastic       |
| 2. flying saucer          | b. to set high targets and goals     |
| 3. to reach for the stars | c. an alien spaceship                |
| 4. starry-eyed            | d. fantastic, of the highest quality |

Now complete the sentences below using one of the idioms from above.

请用上题中的成语来完成下列句子。

1. Some people believe they have seen \_\_\_\_\_ in the night sky.
2. Have you seen the film Avatar yet? I loved it. It's really \_\_\_\_\_.
3. She's so \_\_\_\_\_ - she really believes she will become a famous actress just by going to America.
4. You should always \_\_\_\_\_ instead of thinking you can't achieve anything.

### 3. Label the Pictures 给图片填词

Look at the objects from Space. Can you write the name of the object under the picture?

看看下面这些属于太空中的东西，你知道它们用英语怎么说么？



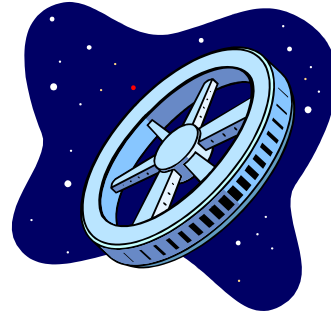
1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



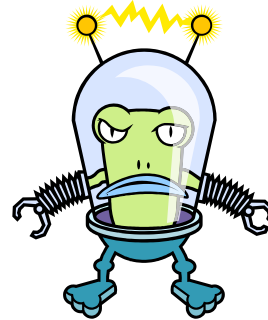
3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_

space station

planet

UFO

spacesuit

extra-terrestrial

satellite

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with science-fiction in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与科幻有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

b	n	g	a	l	a	x	y	h	u	m	t
l	l	k	j	u	l	g	a	b	u	v	i
i	v	i	y	u	i	n	g	h	i	d	m
g	i	n	n	y	e	b	r	t	j	u	e
h	s	v	v	i	n	o	b	b	l	u	t
t	e	a	v	b	y	j	u	s	t	a	r
y	o	d	b	h	j	u	s	u	r	n	a
e	c	e	o	s	h	i	p	b	a	v	v
a	x	t	b	y	j	i	n	o	v	l	e
r	p	r	u	f	o	c	u	b	e	x	l
p	o	i	n	h	t	u	d	w	l	o	i
x	i	u	n	i	v	e	r	s	e	l	t

star	galaxy	universe	UFO	alien
light year	travel	invade	ship	time travel

## Answers 答案

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- Avatar is the most profitable film ever made.  
**False**
- The film introduces an alien race called the Pandora. **False**
- The aliens come to Earth to make friends.  
**False**
- It took four years to develop the alien language.  
**True**
- There are about 1000 words in the language.  
**True**

### 3. Label the Pictures 给图片填词

Look at the objects from Space. Can you write the name of the object under the picture?

看看下面这些属于太空中的东西,你知道它们用英语怎么说么?

- satellite
- planet
- UFO
- space station
- spacesuit
- extra-terrestrial

### 2. Space Idioms 关于太空的成语

Match the phrase on the left with the definition on the right.

请把以下成语和其解释连线。

- d
- c
- b
- a

Now complete the sentences below using one of the idioms from above.

请用上题中的成语来完成下列句子。

- Some people believe they have seen **flying saucers** in the night sky.
- Have you seen the film Avatar yet? I loved it. It's really **out of this world**.
- She's so **starry-eyed** - she really believes she will become a famous actress just by going to America.
- You should always **reach for the stars** instead of thinking you can't achieve anything.

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

		g	a	l	a	x	y			t
l					l					i
i	i			i						m
g	n			e						e
h	v			n						t
t	a						s	t	a	r
y	d							r		a
e	e		s	h	i	p		a		v
a								v		e
r		u	f	o				e		l
								l		
		u	n	i	v	e	r	s	e	