

# **ENGLISH PLUS**

## **SHORT INTRODUCTIONS**



### **ASTRONAUTS**

**LISTENING | TEXT | SENTENCE | WORD  
PRACTICE WORKSHEET**

**NEVER STOP LEARNING**

# Astronauts

## Listen Closely!

### ASTRONAUTS

“That’s one small step for man, one 1 2 for 3.” Astronaut Neil Armstrong 4 these words on July 20, 1969, as he became the 5 person ever to step onto the Moon.

An astronaut is a space traveler. 6 fly 7 space on spaceships. They go where there is no air, higher than any 8 can fly. 9 they orbit Earth, they are weightless-they float and feel no 10.

In 11 Armstrong’s day, all astronauts 12 military test pilots. Today, they’re as likely to be medical doctors, scientists, or 13. Astronauts are still pretty unusual, however. Only a few hundred 14 have ever traveled into space.

15 receive intense training. Then they may prepare a year or 16 for a specific mission. Pilots must be able to control all spacecraft 17 and deal with emergencies. They may 18 to make course changes or dock with a 19 station. 20 21 be able to land the spacecraft. 22 specialists are experts on particular 23. Any astronaut may have to perform

24 \_\_\_\_\_ in a space suit outside the 25 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Most 26 \_\_\_\_\_ missions do not require 27 \_\_\_\_\_  
 passengers. Robots and computers can do many jobs without needing  
 people. But astronauts can perform some experiments in space  
 28 \_\_\_\_\_ machines cannot. 29 \_\_\_\_\_ can examine, for  
 example, how 30 \_\_\_\_\_ burn or how 31 \_\_\_\_\_ grow  
 without gravity. 32 \_\_\_\_\_ experiments test the effects of  
 spaceflight on human beings. Astronauts 33 \_\_\_\_\_  
 34 \_\_\_\_\_ and 35 \_\_\_\_\_ 36 \_\_\_\_\_, machines that  
 orbit Earth. They also 37 \_\_\_\_\_ 38 \_\_\_\_\_ in space for  
 return to Earth.

Astronauts may spend weeks or even months in space. Russian  
 cosmonaut Valeriy Polyakov holds the record for the 39 \_\_\_\_\_  
 consecutive days in 40 \_\_\_\_\_. He spent 438 days aboard the  
 Mir Space Station in 1994 and 1995.

41 \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts are 42 \_\_\_\_\_ cosmonauts. The  
 43 \_\_\_\_\_ person in space was 44 \_\_\_\_\_ Yuri Gagarin. He  
 made the trip in April 1961. The first 45 \_\_\_\_\_, a  
 46 \_\_\_\_\_ later, was astronaut Alan 47 \_\_\_\_\_. The first  
 capsules that 48 \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts into space were barely  
 49 \_\_\_\_\_ enough to hold their single passenger.

The Apollo 50 \_\_\_\_\_ 51 \_\_\_\_\_ during the 1960s.  
 52 \_\_\_\_\_ was an 53 \_\_\_\_\_ project to send people to the  
 54 \_\_\_\_\_ and back. There were 55 \_\_\_\_\_  
 56 \_\_\_\_\_ in each Apollo crew. Two of 57 \_\_\_\_\_  
 58 \_\_\_\_\_ the Moon while the third stayed aboard the main

spacecraft.

Neil Armstrong, 59 Aldrin, and Michael Collins were the 60 of Apollo 11. 61 was the first mission to 62 on the Moon. Altogether, 12 63 walked on the Moon as 64 of the Apollo 65. They performed experiments and brought back moon rocks for study. No one else has ever been to the Moon.

During the 1980s, the United 66 began to use 67 shuttles to send 68 into 69. Previously, spaceships 70 71 fly once. Each 72 required a new spaceship. Now, space shuttles can fly into space 73 times. They are launched from the top of a 74, but they land like an airplane. Up to seven crew members can live aboard a shuttle.

The United States has 75 76 on a new type of 77 78 to replace the space shuttle. This new spaceship will use newer technology and will be cheaper to operate than the space shuttle. Someday astronauts may walk on the Moon again, or even travel to other 79 !

## ALEXANDER THE GREAT

He was a king, a commander, and a conqueror. Alexander the Great was so powerful some people called him a god. He was one of the greatest generals in history, and he built a vast 80 that extended from the Mediterranean Sea to India.

Alexander was 81 in Macedonia in 356 bc. His father, King Philip II of Macedonia, hired the famous Greek 82 Aristotle to tutor young Alexander. In the summer of 336 bc, Philip was 83 by one of his 84. Alexander 85 86 87.

88 people in Macedonia plotted against the young king, but Alexander was shrewd. He quickly ordered the execution of all the conspirators. At the 89 time, some Greek 90 91 by Macedonia rebelled and others threatened to seek independence. Alexander crushed the 92 and restored Macedonian 93.

Next, in 334 bc, Alexander turned his attention 94 the Persian Empire in southwest Asia. 95 led Macedonian and Greek soldiers to attack Darius III, 96's 97. Their armies met at Issus in Syria in 333 bc, and 98 a fierce battle. Alexander won, and Darius fled.

Alexander then led his soldiers 99, into Egypt. Alexander 100 power from the pharaoh, who ruled Egypt on 101 of the Persians. The 102 Egyptians saw Alexander as a person who freed them, and they crowned him 103. At the mouth of the Nile 104 in 105 Egypt, Alexander founded a new city. He named the city Alexandria, and it 106 a famous center of learning.

In 331 bc, 107 led his troops back north into 108. King Darius was eager for revenge. Alexander and Darius fought another great battle, 109 time at

Gaugamela. Once again, Alexander won. The battle at Gaugamela ended centuries of Persian rule in Asia.

110 then turned south and conquered other important Persian cities. At Persepolis, he burned 111 Darius's palace to show he had conquered the Persian Empire. In 330 bc, Alexander 112 north to 113 114 again. 115 time, Darius was killed by his own men as he fled.

Alexander was a military genius and a great explorer. But he also had a grand ambition. He wanted to rule a 116 empire where people could live in 117 with one another. From 330 to 327 bc, Alexander led his soldiers east, through 118 and into Central Asia. As he travelled, he built more 119. He 120 soldiers, merchants, and scholars 121 many 122 to 123 there.

In 326 bc, Alexander turned south, into India. But by then his men were tired and weak. 124 were far from home in an unknown land. The soldiers rebelled and refused to go farther. Reluctantly, 125 turned back. By 323 bc, he 126 Babylon in Iraq. While there he caught a fever and died at the age of 33. His empire was divided among his generals.



## Pick the Headings

Choose the correct headings to fill in the blanks in the text below:

WHAT DO ASTRONAUTS DO IN SPACE?

THE SPACE SHUTTLE

WHO GETS TO BE AN ASTRONAUT?

FLYING TO THE MOON

THE FIRST ASTRONAUTS

### ASTRONAUTS

“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Astronaut Neil Armstrong spoke these words on July 20, 1969, as he became the first person ever to step onto the Moon.

An astronaut is a space traveler. Astronauts fly into space on spaceships. They go where there is no air, higher than any airplane can fly. While they orbit (go around) Earth, they are weightless-they float and feel no gravity.

1

In Neil Armstrong’s day, all astronauts were military test pilots. Today, they’re as likely to be medical doctors, scientists, or engineers. Astronauts are still pretty unusual, however. Only a few hundred people have ever traveled into space.

Astronauts receive intense training. Then they may prepare a year or

more for a specific mission. Pilots must be able to control all spacecraft systems and deal with emergencies. They may need to make course changes or dock with a space station. They must be able to land the spacecraft. Mission specialists are experts on particular experiments. Any astronaut may have to perform duties in a space suit outside the craft.

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2

Most space missions do not require human passengers. Robots and computers can do many jobs without needing people. But astronauts can perform some experiments in space that machines cannot. They can examine, for example, how flames burn or how crystals grow without gravity. Some experiments test the effects of spaceflight on human beings. Astronauts also launch and repair satellites, machines that orbit Earth. They also retrieve objects in space for return to Earth.

Astronauts may spend weeks or even months in space. Russian cosmonaut Valeriy Polyakov holds the record for the most consecutive days in space. He spent 438 days aboard the Mir Space Station in 1994 and 1995.

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3

Russian astronauts are called cosmonauts. The first person in space was cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. He made the trip in April 1961. The first American, a month later, was astronaut Alan Shepard. The first capsules that carried astronauts into space were barely large enough to hold their single passenger.

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The Apollo program began during the 1960s. Apollo was an American project to send people to the Moon and back. There were three astronauts in each Apollo crew. Two of them explored the Moon while the third stayed aboard the main spacecraft.

Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins were the crew of Apollo 11. This was the first mission to land on the Moon. Altogether, 12 astronauts walked on the Moon as part of the Apollo program. They performed experiments and brought back moon rocks for study. No one else has ever been to the Moon.

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During the 1980s, the United States began to use space shuttles to send astronauts into space. Previously, spaceships could only fly once. Each trip required a new spaceship. Now, space shuttles can fly into space many times. They are launched from the top of a rocket, but they land like an airplane. Up to seven crew members can live aboard a shuttle.

The United States has begun research on a new type of reusable spaceship to replace the space shuttle. This new spaceship will use newer technology and will be cheaper to operate than the space shuttle. Someday astronauts may walk on the Moon again, or even travel to other planets!

## What's Wrong?

In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Find the misspelled words and correct them.

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## What's Missing?

A number of words have been removed from each sentence and listed below the sentence. Use the listed words to fill the blanks in the sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ astronaut is \_\_\_\_\_ space traveler. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ into space on spaceships. They go where there is  
\_\_\_\_\_ air, higher than \_\_\_\_\_ airplane can \_\_\_\_\_.  
While they orbit Earth, they \_\_\_\_\_ weightless-they float and  
feel no gravity.

A. ANY B. AN C. ASTRONAUTS D. ARE E. FLY F. A G.  
NO H. FLY

2. Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins were  
\_\_\_\_\_ crew \_\_\_\_\_ Apollo 11. This was the first mission  
to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Moon. Altogether, 12 \_\_\_\_\_ walked on  
the Moon as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Apollo \_\_\_\_\_. They  
performed \_\_\_\_\_ and brought back moon rocks for study.  
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A. EXPERIMENTS B. PROGRAM C. OF D. ASTRONAUTS E.  
THE F. THE G. LAND H. PART

3. \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ weeks or even months in space.  
Russian \_\_\_\_\_ Polyakov holds the record  
\_\_\_\_\_ the most \_\_\_\_\_ in space. He  
\_\_\_\_\_ 438 days aboard the Mir Space Station in 1994 and  
1995.

A. DAYS B. SPENT C. VALERIY D. CONSECUTIVE E.  
ASTRONAUTS F. FOR G. SPEND H. COSMONAUT

4. \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts are \_\_\_\_\_ cosmonauts. The \_\_\_\_\_ person in \_\_\_\_\_ was cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. He made the trip in April 1961. \_\_\_\_\_ first American, a month later, was \_\_\_\_\_ Alan Shepard. The first capsules that carried astronauts \_\_\_\_\_ space were barely large enough to hold their \_\_\_\_\_ passenger.

A. FIRST B. THE C. SINGLE D. RUSSIAN E. CALLED F. ASTRONAUT G. SPACE H. INTO

5. The Apollo program began during the 1960s. \_\_\_\_\_ an American project \_\_\_\_\_ send people to the Moon and back. \_\_\_\_\_ were three astronauts in each Apollo crew. \_\_\_\_\_ them explored the Moon while the third \_\_\_\_\_ aboard the \_\_\_\_\_ spacecraft.

A. TWO B. TO C. THERE D. STAYED E. WAS F. APOLLO G. MAIN H. OF

6. During the 1980s, the United States began to use space shuttles \_\_\_\_\_ send astronauts into space. Previously, spaceships \_\_\_\_\_ only fly once. Each trip required \_\_\_\_\_ new spaceship. Now, \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ into space many times. They are launched from the top of a rocket, but \_\_\_\_\_ land like an airplane. Up to seven crew members can live aboard \_\_\_\_\_ shuttle.

A. COULD B. A C. A D. THEY E. SPACE F. SHUTTLES G. TO H. FLY

7. \_\_\_\_\_

A. ASTRONAUTS

8. In \_\_\_\_\_ Armstrong's \_\_\_\_\_, all \_\_\_\_\_ were military test pilots. Today, they' \_\_\_\_\_ as likely to be medical doctors, \_\_\_\_\_, or engineers. Astronauts are still pretty \_\_\_\_\_, however. Only a \_\_\_\_\_ hundred people have ever \_\_\_\_\_ into space.

A. NEIL B. FEW C. RE D. UNUSUAL E. TRAVELED F. SCIENTISTS G. DAY H. ASTRONAUTS

9. Astronauts receive intense training. Then they may prepare a year or more \_\_\_\_\_ a specific \_\_\_\_\_. Pilots \_\_\_\_\_ be able to control all \_\_\_\_\_ systems and \_\_\_\_\_ with emergencies. They may need to make \_\_\_\_\_ changes or dock \_\_\_\_\_ a space station. They must be able to land the spacecraft. Mission specialists \_\_\_\_\_ experts on particular experiments. Any astronaut may have to perform duties in a space suit outside the craft.
- A. MUST B. COURSE C. ARE D. MISSION E. WITH F. DEAL G. FOR H. SPACECRAFT
10. "That's one \_\_\_\_\_ for man, one giant leap for \_\_\_\_\_." Astronaut \_\_\_\_\_ spoke these \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20, 1969, as he became the first person ever to \_\_\_\_\_ onto the Moon.
- A. JULY B. STEP C. WORDS D. NEIL E. MANKIND F. ARMSTRONG G. STEP H. SMALL
11. The United States has begun research on a new type of \_\_\_\_\_ spaceship to replace the \_\_\_\_\_ shuttle. This new \_\_\_\_\_ will use newer technology and will be cheaper to operate than the space shuttle. \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ the Moon again, \_\_\_\_\_ even travel to other planets!
- A. OR B. SPACESHIP C. ON D. SOMEDAY E. REUSABLE F. SPACE G. WALK H. ASTRONAUTS
12. Most space missions \_\_\_\_\_ not require human passengers. Robots and computers can do many jobs without needing people. But astronauts can perform some experiments in space that machines \_\_\_\_\_. They can examine, for example, how flames burn or how crystals grow without gravity. Some experiments test the effects of spaceflight on human beings. \_\_\_\_\_ also launch and repair \_\_\_\_\_, machines that orbit Earth. They also \_\_\_\_\_ objects \_\_\_\_\_ space \_\_\_\_\_ to Earth.
- A. ASTRONAUTS B. RETRIEVE C. SATELLITES D. IN E. FOR F. RETURN G. DO H. CANNOT



## Fun with Words

**Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.**

W	Z	D	O	F	G	S	P	A	C	E	F	L	I	G	H	T	N	I	T	O	J	Z	O	R
K	V	T	E	E	N	A	L	P	R	I	A	R	S	J	J	S	A	W	D	J	S	F	T	O
A	U	R	N	L	C	S	H	H	T	U	X	A	T	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	I	S	T	S
C	Q	A	G	B	K	P	Z	P	G	S	D	L	S	Q	Y	V	I	M	T	Z	R	E	O	S
Q	M	I	I	A	A	A	B	D	E	J	D	U	I	E	T	K	R	Z	F	L	G	I	L	E
H	Q	N	N	S	E	C	Q	L	O	U	K	C	T	J	S	P	E	C	I	F	I	C	U	T
L	S	I	E	U	M	E	U	L	W	T	A	I	N	D	P	I	M	G	L	U	H	N	S	I
R	O	N	E	E	Z	S	E	V	E	I	R	T	E	R	L	R	A	P	P	R	B	E	S	L
J	M	G	R	R	P	H	O	V	O	I	F	R	I	S	H	U	T	T	L	E	S	G	D	L
U	F	D	S	A	G	I	P	L	W	A	I	A	C	S	H	A	U	J	K	G	W	R	R	E
F	U	R	C	Z	Y	P	N	C	R	U	P	P	S	I	T	U	A	E	K	N	T	E	E	T
V	O	K	A	Y	L	O	P	C	Q	Z	C	Y	I	Y	L	G	N	F	L	E	R	M	H	A
T	G	R	B	C	G	R	E	E	G	E	A	R	M	S	T	R	O	N	G	S	A	E	T	S
R	Q	F	F	F	N	C	R	S	E	N	I	H	C	A	M	P	R	V	O	S	V	W	E	A
A	G	O	M	L	A	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	S	I	B	E	T	L	T	A	E	U	G	Z
V	B	E	X	P	E	R	I	M	E	N	T	S	X	D	Q	T	S	O	Z	P	L	Y	O	V
E	H	K	S	P	R	E	V	I	O	U	S	L	Y	I	E	C	A	O	Z	E	E	M	T	N
L	S	L	A	T	S	Y	R	C	C	O	N	S	E	C	U	T	I	V	E	D	R	U	L	B
E	C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	S	C	O	S	M	O	N	A	U	T	K	A	R	Z	A	U
D	E	X	P	L	O	R	E	D	M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	L	A	U	N	C	H	E	D

REQUIRED

ENGINEERS

POLYAKOV

AMERICAN

MILITARY

CONSECUTIVE

PASSENGER

SATELLITES

RETRIEVE

REUSABLE

AIRPLANE

SPACECRAFT

ARMSTRONG

CAPSULES

COSMONAUT

SHUTTLES

PARTICULAR

SCIENTISTS

MISSIONS

TRAVELER

COMPUTERS

PREVIOUSLY

SPACEFLIGHT

ASTRONAUT

EXPERIMENTS

LAUNCHED

CRYSTALS

SPECIALISTS

TRAVELED

EXPLORED

SPACESHIP

TRAINING

SPECIFIC

EMERGENCIES

ALTOGETHER

MACHINES