

New Words

gravity astronaut spacesuit meteorite
universe launch experiment spacecraft

Hot Science

Gravity is a force that pulls objects towards the centre of Earth. If we did not have gravity, we would all float away.

- A** Colour the star yellow if you think the sentences are true.

1.

The word 'astronaut' comes from the Greek words meaning 'star sailor'.

2.

An astronaut's footprints will stay on the moon for millions of years. There is no wind to blow them away.

3.

A spacesuit is like a tiny spaceship for one person. It has air conditioning, heating, air to breathe and water to drink. It even has a built-in toilet.

4.

Astronauts grow in space. Their spines stretch because there is no gravity. They shrink back when they return to Earth.

5.

Astronauts are strapped into bunk beds at night in case they float around the spacecraft while they are sleeping.

6.

As there is no air on the moon, there is no sound. Astronauts talk to each other on the moon by using radios that are built into their spacesuits.

- B** Match each word to its meaning.

1. Spaceship

a. A person trained to fly a spaceship.

2. Astronaut

b. A machine to travel in space.

3. Universe

c. A long trip.

4. Meteorite

d. The planets, moons, sun and stars.

5. Orbit

e. A way to find out something.

6. Launch

f. A stone from space that falls to Earth.

7. Journey

g. The path round something in space.

8. Experiment

h. Getting something started.

C Read about how to become an astronaut. Fill in the words below.

People must study and work for many years before they can even begin to train to be an astronaut. They go to college to study science, medicine or engineering. Many also learn how to be pilots for their country's air force. Most astronauts are between 27 and 37 years old when they start their training. They learn what space feels like on a special training aeroplane. The aeroplane drops down through the sky at a very fast speed for 30 seconds. It can make the astronauts feel sick, so they have nicknamed it 'the vomit comet'! In a real spaceship, astronauts feel sick for only the first few days.

Astronauts from around the world work on the International Space Station. They talk to one another in English and Russian. They need to be good at getting on with people as they live and work so close together.

Astronauts must be very fit and healthy. Working in space is a lot like working in water. As part of their training, therefore, astronauts swim in a large pool wearing their spacesuit and running shoes.

There are lots of different jobs in space. Some astronauts are pilots, some do experiments and some are space walkers. Space walkers go outside the Space Station to check that everything is working.

Languages astronauts can speak:

1. _____
2. _____

The word 'astronaut' means:

Subjects astronauts study:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Astronaut jobs:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Imagine that you are an astronaut. Write about a new planet that you and your crew have found.

