

# The Space Race

SPEAKING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_2036S\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English



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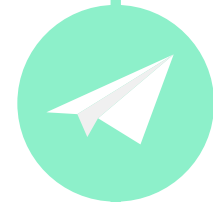


## Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a more complex text about the Space Race.
- Can present a detailed opinion on going into space and discuss the role of celebrities in society.



That evening, people around the world  
**gaped** open-mouthed at their  
television sets. Man had finally gone  
where no **earthly creature** had been  
before: the moon.





## Warm up

- Have you heard the following statement before? What does it mean to you?



That's one **small step** for **man**, one **giant leap** for **mankind**.



## About you



Do you have any interest in  
outer space, or astronomy?  
Can you name all the planets of  
the solar system in English?



## The Space Race and you

**What do you already  
know about the  
Space Race?  
What would you like  
to know?**



## Origins and the Cold War



After the Second World War ended, a new conflict began. Known as the Cold War, it was a long, tense competition between the United States and what was then the Soviet Union (also known as the USSR). Although there were no battles directly involving the two sides, there were fights between other countries supported by the US and the USSR.



## Origins and the Cold War

The two countries were like two friends who had stopped talking to each other, but continued to compete with one another over who could be the best. However, this **feud** took place on an international scale and **involved** the development of nuclear weapons. It also involved a competition over which side could be the first to send people to the Moon and Mars. This particular competition came to be called the **Space Race**.





## Origins and the Cold War

The Space Race began in 1955, when the US announced that they would send satellites into space. A few days later, the USSR announced that they, too, would be sending satellites into space. The Soviets won this initial contest by launching a satellite called Sputnik, and later another called Sputnik 2. This second satellite was carrying a special passenger: a dog named Laika. Although Laika only lived a few hours, she became the first living organism to be sent into space. Laika was followed a few years later by the first person in space. This was the Russian **astronaut** Yuri Gagarin, in 1961. The first woman in space was also from the USSR. Her name was Valentina Tereshkova.

However, the US **trumped** these achievements by sending people to the moon in 1969. This expedition was led by commander Neil Armstrong. The USSR eventually stopped trying to put people on the moon, instead focusing on building space stations that **orbit** the Earth. The Americans had won the Space Race.



## Vocabulary

Find the word from the text that matches each definition.

1. A large jump.
2. Describing a strain on nerves or feelings.
3. To include or contain.
4. A person whose job is to travel into space.
5. To excel, surpass or outdo.
6. To move around something in a predictable pattern.

to trump

to leap

to orbit

tense

astronaut

to involve



## Complete the table of word families

Verb	Noun	Adjective
to leap	_____	X
_____	_____	tense
to involve	_____	_____
to trump	_____	_____
to orbit	_____	_____





## Discussion

**Discuss these questions with your teacher or other students.**



Would you go into space? Why or why not?

What would be the most difficult thing for you about going into space? What would be the most interesting?

Astronauts in the mid to late twentieth century were celebrities. Do you think this fame was justified? Why or why not?



## Debate

**Do you agree or disagree with the sentence below? Why or why not?  
Take a moment to collect your thoughts and then discuss with your  
teacher or group.**

“

The Space Race was a waste of time for both the United  
States and the Soviet Union.

”



## Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on  
training your listening comprehension



## Listen and list

As you listen, note down at least two ways the Space Race affected people all over the world.

Then, go to the next activity to fill in the blanks.



## Complete the sentences as you listen

Both Gagarin and Armstrong spoke \_\_\_\_\_ words during their missions.

\_\_\_\_\_ said this: \_\_\_\_\_  
Earth in the spaceship, I saw how beautiful  
our planet is. People, let us \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ this beauty, not destroy  
it!

And \_\_\_\_\_'s words, when taking his  
first step on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
moon: That's one small step for man, one  
giant \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.







## Discussion

**Re-read the quotes by the Russian and American astronauts and answer the following questions.**



1

How does the meaning and intent behind each differ?



## Discussion

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1

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Which quote do you think is more effective?



## Discussion

**Re-read the quotes by the Russian and American astronauts and answer the following questions.**



1

How does the meaning and intent behind each differ?



2

Which quote do you think is more effective?



3

Which do you think has stood the test of time?



## Over to you



What do you think of the idea of astronauts as celebrities? Is it better to be famous for something like this than a more traditional career like acting? Think of some professions that tend to be glorified nowadays.



## Language focus: gendered nouns

Many languages use gendered language to describe people and ideas. However the English language has seen a change from gender specific nouns to neutral nouns. Do you know the gender-neutral words for these nouns?



mankind

air hostess

fisherman

actress

chairman

manpower

policeman

waitress

bachelor



**Space urban myths: separate fact from fiction! What is hard to believe? Why? Check the answers on the next slide.**

	TRUE	FALSE
1. The US spent millions developing a pen that would work in space while the Soviets just used a pencil.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The Great Wall of China is visible from space.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Outer space has a smell.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The US has a Don't Talk To Aliens law, just in case.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The sun is yellow and has rays like a child's drawing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. One side of the moon is permanently dark.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## How many did you get right?

**Check your answers to the previous question here.**

1. This is a myth. NASA used mechanical pencils, although a private investor did try to invent an anti-gravity pen.
2. False. The Great Wall, although a feat of human engineering, is actually quite difficult to make out from space because it is so narrow.
3. True. Astronauts cannot smell space when they are outside the ship, but they say a smell similar to seared steak clings to their suit, tools and gloves when they come back into the airlock.
4. True. The US does have a law regarding contact with aliens, but it involves quarantining anyone who may have had contact with aliens to avoid health and safety risk. It is not illegal to make contact with aliens in the US.
5. False. The sun is actually white and looks more like a golf ball. It looks yellow to us because of the way its rays shine through the air.
6. False. It's true that one side of the moon permanently faces Earth, but the other side faces the sun at regular intervals and has days and nights just like Earth does.



## Message home

Imagine you are an astronaut on a mission in space. You haven't seen your friends or family for over a year! You have the opportunity to send them a short voice recording. What do you say?







## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





## Transcription

### Exercise p. 15

Against the **backdrop** of recovery from World War II and the Cold War, the Space Race captured the imaginations of people all over the world. Supported by the invention of the television, astronauts became celebrities. Millions of people watched the launching of the satellites and spacecrafts on TV. Young people were inspired to study mathematics and science. And the satellites launched during the Space Race continue to send information back to Earth.

Both Gagarin and Armstrong spoke inspiring words during their missions. Gagarin said this: "Orbiting Earth in the spaceship, I saw how beautiful our planet is. People, let us preserve and increase this beauty, not destroy it!"

And Armstrong's words, when taking his first step on the surface of the moon, are still frequently quoted today, more than fifty years later: "That's one small step for man, one giant **leap** for mankind."



## Answer Key

### Exercise p. 21

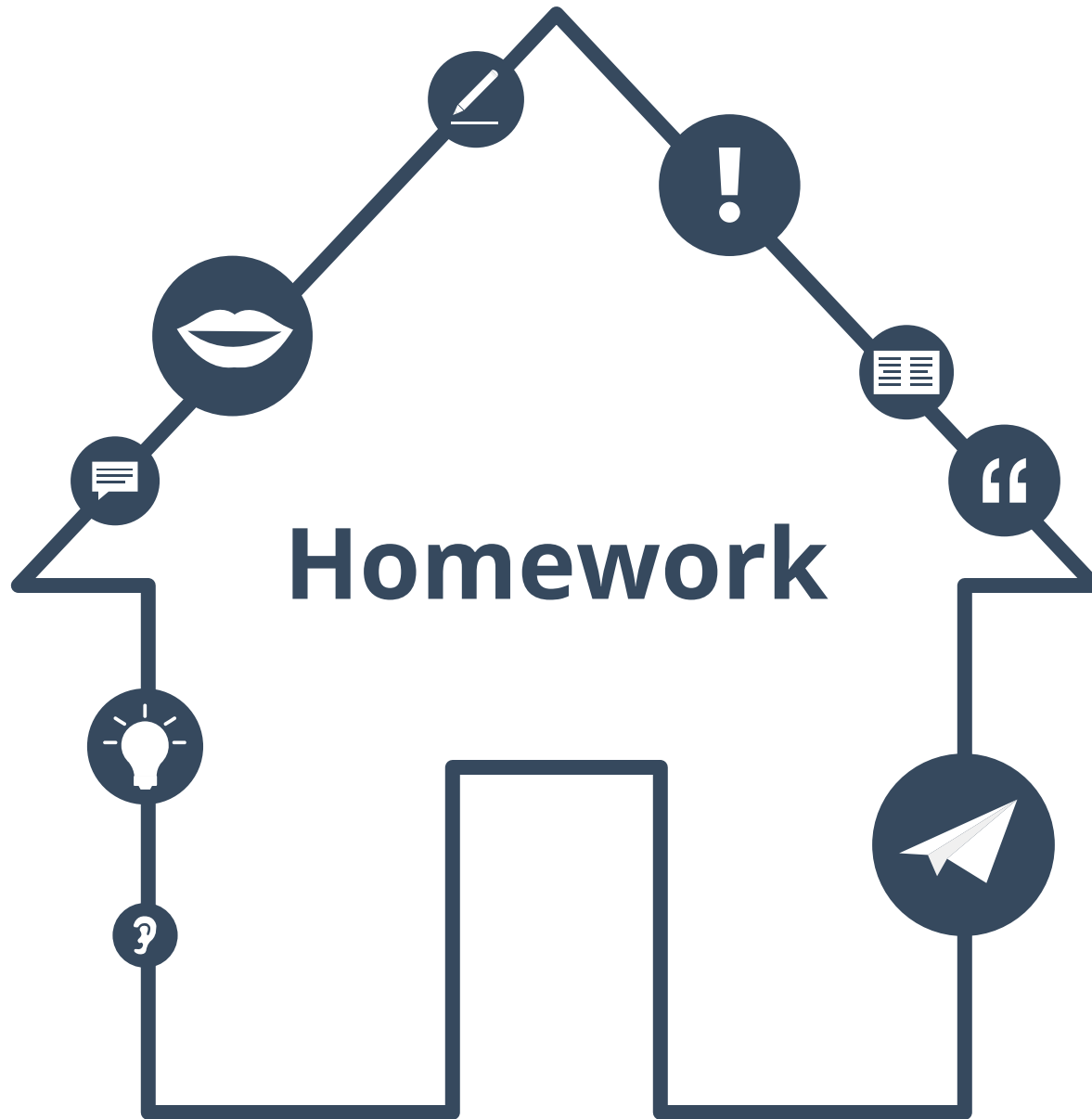
Humankind, flight attendant, fisher or fisherperson, actor, chair or chairperson, workforce, police officer, server, single person

### Exercise p. 11

A leap, to tense / tension, involvement / involved, a trump / trumped, an orbit / orbital or orbiting

### Exercise p. 10

1. leap, 2. tense, 3. involve, 4. astronaut, 5. trump, 6. orbit.

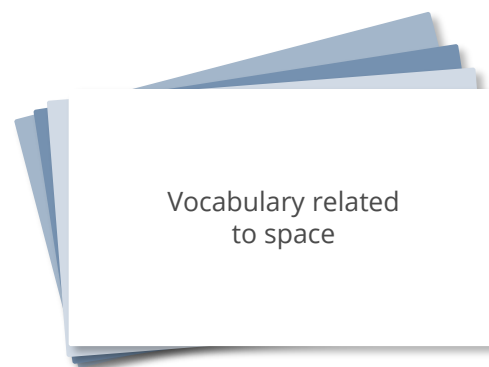




## Homework flashcards

**Starting with words from this lesson, create some flashcards of vocabulary related to space.**

**Try to have an equal number of verbs, nouns and adjectives/adverbs.**



## Creative writing

**You have just landed on the moon! Describe what you see.**



Here I am! ...



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