

READING 1. 17 – 2

In 1969, a key milestone in space travel was reached when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. In 2001, another landmark event took place when the first civilian traveled into space as a paying tourist.

As a teenager, Dennis Tito dreamed of visiting outer space. As a young man, he aspired to become an astronaut and earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in aerospace engineering. However, Tito did not have all the qualities necessary to become a professional astronaut; so instead, he went to work as a space engineer in one of NASA's laboratories for five years. Later, Tito set up his own financial investment company and, eventually, he became a multi – millionaire. Later in life, the ex – rocket engineer, still passionate about space travel, began looking into ways to make a trip into space.

In the early 1990s, the Soviet Space Agency was offering tickets for a visit to the Mir space station to anyone who could afford it. Tito jumped at the chance for this once – in – a – lifetime experience. Due to political and economic changes in the former Soviet Union, however, Tito's trip was postponed and later, Mir was decommissioned. In 2001, Tito's dream was finally came true when he paid a rumored \$20 million and took off aboard a SOYUZ rocket to deliver supplies to the International Space Station, a joint venture between the space agencies of Japan, Canada, Europe, Russia, and the U.S.

In preparation for the trip, Tito trained at the Gagarin Cosmonauts Training Center at Star City in Russia. There, he underwent eight months of physical fitness training, weightless simulations, and a variety of other exercises to prepare him for space travel. Although the Russians believed that Tito was adequately prepared for the trip, NASA thought otherwise. Dennis Tito had to sign an agreement with international space officials taking financial responsibility for any equipment he damaged or broke on his trip. He was also barred from entering any part of the space station owned by the U.S. unless escorted.

Although Tito made history and paved the way for the future of space tourism, factors such as cost, and the amount of training required, stand in the way of space vacations becoming an option for most people in the near future. In spite of this, Japanese and North American market data shows that there is definite public interest in space travel. In a 1993 survey of 3,030 Japanese, 80 percent of those under the age of forty said they would like to visit space at least once. Seventy percent of this group would pay up to three month's salary for the trip. In 1995, 1,020 households in North America were surveyed and of those, 60 percent were interested were under forty years of age. Just over 45 percent said they would pay three month's salary, around 18 percent said they would pay six month's salary, and

nearly 11 percent would pay a year's salary. Two – thirds of those who want to visit space would like to do so several times. Since the nature of this type of travel makes it hazardous to humans, it would have to be restricted to those who are physically fit and able to take responsibility for the risks involved.

11. According to the passage, what was the main event in 1969?
 - A. Scientists planned to travel to space.
 - B. People started to concern space travel.
 - C. The dream of space travel became true.
 - D. Neil Armstrong was ready for heading to the moon.
12. When did Dennis Tito dream of becoming an astronaut?
 - A. When he was at kindergarten.
 - B. When he was at primary school.
 - C. When he was at his teen.
 - D. When he was at university.
13. Dennis Tito made the first trip as a space tourist _____.
 - A. in the late '60s.
 - B. in the early '90s.
 - C. this century.
 - D. in the late '50s.
14. Which of the following is NOT true about Dennis Tito?
 - A. He has an advanced degree in aerospace engineering.
 - B. He is now an astronaut for NASA.
 - C. He eventually became a very wealthy man.
 - D. He used to dream of travelling to outer space.
15. Tito's first trip into space was with _____ to _____.
 - A. the Russian/ the International Space Station.
 - B. the Americans/SOYUZ
 - C. members of the former Soviet Union/ the Mir space station
 - D. the Japanese agency
16. Which of the following describes NASA's feelings about Tito's trip into space?
 - A. extremely proud
 - B. somewhat eager
 - C. very concerned
 - D. disappointed

17. According to Japanese survey, which of the following is true?
- A. Eighty percent of all those interviewed would be interested in travelling to space.
 - B. Some people would pay a quarter of their annual salary to visit space.
 - C. Only people under the age of forty are interested in space travel.
 - D. Seventy percent of Japanese would pay three quarters of their annual salary to visit space.
18. According to a North American survey on space travel, which is true?
- A. Seventy – five percent of those surveyed would be interested in travelling to space.
 - B. Most people would pay a year's salary to visit space as a tourist.
 - C. Most of the people interested in space travel were under the age of forty.
 - D. Nearly sixty percent of those surveyed were interested in a vacation in space travel.
19. According to the passage, who did not believe that Tito was trained well enough for the trip to space?
- A. Russian Training Center.
 - B. Japanese Training Center.
 - C. European Training Center.
 - D. NASA
20. Which of the following would probably prevent you from becoming a space tourist in the near future?
- A. health
 - B. wealth
 - C. youth
 - D. age