

UNIT 10: SPACE TRAVEL – CLOSER LOOK 1

Vocabulary

1 Fill the gaps with the verbs provided. Modify the verb if necessary.

land

orbit

train

experience

launch

1. It takes 365.256 days for Earth to _____ the Sun.
2. Have you ever _____ weightlessness?
3. The spacecraft was _____ last week.
4. In 2014 a robot named Philae, part of the Rosetta mission, successfully _____ on a comet.
5. Would you like to be _____ to become an astronaut?

Choose a word/phrase in the box to fill each blank.

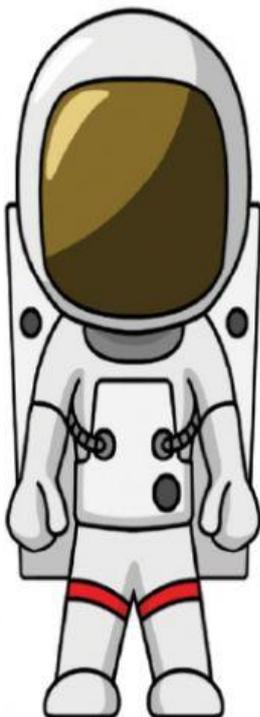
a flight suit

spacewalks

operate

good health

parabolic flights



HOW ASTRONAUTS ARE TRAINED

Anyone can apply to train as an astronaut as long as they have a bachelor's degree in science, mathematics or engineering, experience as a jet pilot, and are in (1) . If they get accepted, there are several phases of training. The first phase requires them to pass a swimming test in (2) . They take (3) that produce weightlessness. They also learn about various spaceship systems. In the second phase, they are trained to (4) spacecraft systems and deal with emergencies. The training often takes place in a water tank laboratory so that trainees become familiar with crew activities in simulated microgravity in order to perform (5) .

3 a Match these space-related idioms to their meanings.

1. over the moon

a. occasionally

2. once in a blue moon

b. almost without limit

3. out of this world

c. delighted

4. The sky's the limit.

d. amazing

b Now practise saying them with a partner.

A: How often do you play football?

B: Oh, once in a blue moon.