

Tourists in space

1 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 Do you think space
 - 2 Yuri Gagarin was the first space
 - 3 Several companies have started test
 - 4 If you go outside, you need to wear this space
 - 5 The new space
 - 6 Would you like to be a space
- a plane looks amazing.
 - b traveller in 1961.
 - c tourism will become popular in the future?
 - d suit to protect you.
 - e flights for people to go into space.
 - f tourist?

2 Read the article. Put the topics a-f in the order they are mentioned.

- a examples of effects on your body
- b mental health
- c space walks
- d physical fitness
- e what to do in zero gravity
- f making a mess

3 Read the article again and choose the correct answer.

- 1 What does the writer say about space tourism in the first paragraph?
 - a It will probably become more expensive.
 - b More people will consider it in the future.
 - c They don't want to try it.
- 2 How fit should you be to travel in space?
 - a extremely fit b reasonably fit
 - c not fit
- 3 What does the writer recommend you do in zero gravity?
 - a spin around b eat and drink
 - c look out into space
- 4 Which activity does the writer NOT say can make a mess?
 - a eating b drinking water
 - c brushing your teeth
- 5 Why won't you be able to do a space walk?
 - a It's too expensive.
 - b It's too dangerous.
 - c It takes too long.



SO YOU WANT TO VISIT SPACE?

With the increase in space tourism and with it set to become even more popular in the future, you'll most likely want to be a space tourist at some point. Who wouldn't? If you're considering travelling to space, then you'll need to read our 'out-of-this-world' advice first. Here's what you need to know.

It's a good idea to hit the gym first. If you want to experience zero gravity, you need to be physically fit. You don't need to be Olympic athlete level, just at a good level. The whole trip will have effects on your body. For this reason, it's a good idea to be checked by a doctor first. You also need to be mentally fit as this is a life-changing experience that you'll want to enjoy to the full. So keep your brain sharp by learning new skills such as playing a musical instrument.

You need to plan your time there too. Most commercial space tourist flights will only give you a few minutes in zero gravity, so plan what you're going to do because you don't want to waste precious time. And while you might want to spin around or pretend you're flying, include some time just to look out of the window and enjoy the wonderful view too.

When you're in zero gravity, there's no force pulling you down like on Earth, and you might feel dizzy and a bit sick, so be prepared for that. Also, when you leave the Earth's atmosphere (and on re-entry), there will be strong forces pushing and pulling you (most space planes re-enter the atmosphere at nearly 30,000 kilometres per hour). If you suffer from travel sickness, take some medicine with you!

It's important to remember that space travel can be messy. Things we do without thinking on Earth, like drinking water and brushing our teeth, can be difficult to do in space, with no gravity to keep things safe. So make sure you keep containers closed when possible.

Finally, as much as you might want to, you won't be able to put on a space suit and do a space walk. The risks of this are so high that they require weeks of training. After all, if you come loose and float away, there's nobody out there to help you! So remember that while space travel is exciting, you'll need to do a lot of preparation first.