

READING

3 Read the text opposite about travelling into space as a tourist. Choose the correct answers, A, B, C or D.

- 1 Guy Laliberté went into space to
 - A encourage artists to go into space.
 - B work as a scientist on the space station.
 - C video the scientists on the space station.
 - D inform people about water issues.
- 2 What does he say about the training?
 - A It sometimes made him sick.
 - B It was very expensive.
 - C It was easier than he expected.
 - D He wasn't fit enough to do it.
- 3 Guy believes that
 - A the training was not suitable.
 - B it takes too long to get into space.
 - C he would have had problems without training.
 - D the take-off was very difficult.
- 4 What does he say about zero gravity?
 - A Astronauts don't like it.
 - B He found it difficult to cope with.
 - C Astronauts are not allowed to take medicine.
 - D He thought the training did not help with this.
- 5 What does he say about the landing?
 - A He was afraid during the landing.
 - B The parachutes gave them a soft landing.
 - C It stopped him wanting to go into space again.
 - D It was similar to a car crash.
- 6 What does he say about the future?
 - A Money from his book will help people travel into space.
 - B He will write another book to help the environment.
 - C More people will be able to travel into space.
 - D People won't be able to protect the environment.

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Space tourism

Guy Laliberté, the Canadian founder of Cirque du Soleil, went into space in 2009. He did it because he wanted to make people aware of the drinking water problems facing all humans on planet Earth. He was able to spend a few days with scientists on the International Space Station and he did a webcast from the station with himself and other artists who were working in different cities around the world.

He had to travel to the station on a Russian spacecraft and he paid around \$40 million for this flight. Although he is a very fit man, he found some of the training very difficult. For example, he had to sit on chair and go round and round for ten minutes and it can make you feel really sick. But when he finally got into space, he understood why all the training had been necessary. He would have found it even more difficult if he hadn't had training at all.

The take-off was absolutely fantastic and it only took 8.5 minutes to get from Earth to space, which was amazing. The hardest thing for him was dealing with zero gravity, but that's why the training had been so important and they also gave him medicine which the astronauts take to deal with that problem.

The landing was really exciting and very hot and when the parachutes opened, everything was shaking and going round, a bit like being in a car accident. The final landing wasn't soft, but if he had the opportunity, he would do it all over again.

He took lots of photos looking back at Earth while he was on the space station and, after he returned, he published them in a book and gave all the money to the One Drop Foundation. Being in space made him see much more clearly why we need to look after the environment and he thinks that in the future anyone will be able to buy a ticket to travel into space.