

Listen to part of an interview with Dave Williams, a Canadian astronaut. Choose the best answer (A, B or C) Only ONE answer is correct.

### INTERVIEW WITH ASTRONAUT DAVE WILLIAMS

1. In addition to being an astronaut, Dave Williams...
  - A. has done many other exciting things
  - B. has worked as a bank manager
  - C. was unemployed for some time
2. What inspired Dave Williams to become an astronaut?
  - A. watching on TV an astronaut travelling into space
  - B. science fiction literature
  - C. both
3. How did his parents react to his dream of becoming an astronaut?
  - A. they disliked the idea
  - B. they encouraged him to join the Canadian spaceflight program
  - C. they were supportive
4. Dave William's path to become a doctor was...
  - A. a complete failure
  - B. demanding
  - C. smooth
5. While working as a scuba diver...
  - A. he disliked physiology
  - B. he decided he wanted to study medicine
  - C. he wanted to become an aquanaut
6. In his book *Go for Liftoff*, ...
  - A. he claims that a laid-back attitude is key to success
  - B. he claims that the choices we make when we fail determine our success
  - C. narrates his first failure in life
7. The interviewer believes that William's wife...
  - A. has her own right
  - B. is a groundbreaking woman
  - C. tags along with him
8. When Dave met his wife,...
  - A. she was one of few female pilots
  - B. she was studying at medical school
  - C. she was studying to become a pilot
9. Having a child with Down's syndrome...
  - A. has affected his career
  - B. has not changed him
  - C. has taught him to enjoy life as it comes
10. Having a family meant that...
  - A. his wife had to give up her job
  - B. they easily found a work-life balance
  - C. they were able to find a work-life balance

## TRANSCRIPT

**DC:** Good morning, (0) So you've been to the heights of space, the depths of the ocean, you've jumped out of planes, you saved lives as a doctor. You don't like being bored. Do you?

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** No. It's kind of I've had an exciting career. And you know listening to that excerpt from Walter Cronkite. It takes her right back, takes you back to the magic in the dream of becoming an astronaut. It's absolutely incredible.

**DC:** I mean you say that you're there you are watching grainy black and white TV. You're almost 7. What was it? What was that the moment where you said 'ding' in your mind?

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** (1) That was the beginning of a dream watching Alan Shepard go into space I thought that's what I want to do. And of course it was around the time where space exploration was the realm of science fiction. Back in the days of *Lost in Space*. But at that time it was something totally new, totally exciting.

**DC:** There you are watching with your mother and your father, your dad's a bank manager, your mother's a nurse. What did they do to cultivate this sort of early fascination in space travel that you had?

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** (2) I think they encouraged me to pursue my dreams even though those dreams seemed to be impossible. You know when I shared with others that I wanted to be an astronaut the first thing I was told was that's impossible, because Canada did not have a human spaceflight program at that time.

**DC:** Before we get to the point at which Canada does have astronauts, you decide you want to become a doctor. But you don't have an easy path to that. There's quite a bit of adversity and some failure along the way.

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** There's no question hence the name for the book *Defying limits*. You know (3) I've had to work through a number of tough situations and experienced adversity in the course of my career. But I dreamt of becoming an astronaut. Then I thought well if I can't do that and I'm going to be an aquanaut, live and work underwater. And (4) when I started scuba diving I developed this passion for physiology, how the body worked, that led me to going on into medical school. But the first time I applied I didn't get in. I had to work much harder, get better marks, and I was very fortunate to be accepted the second time I applied.

**DC:** You sort of write in the book that failures even the small ones are more instructive than success.

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** I wrote a series of books for children and the second one is called *Go for Liftoff*. In there is share with children, it's what you do when you don't succeed that determines whether you will succeed. And when I failed the first time in my life and I was contemplating the various things that might happen, I thought you know what, now I've got to make a decision. Now I have to decide to commit myself to work really really hard to be able to achieve my dream. And up until that time I thought it was working hard, but it was working at too many diverse things. So (5) it's what I chose to do in that moment where it was really tough that really determine whether I was ultimately going to go on be able to succeed.

**DC:** Before we get to you getting into space I want to talk about your wife getting into the sky, because (6) she is a commercial airline pilot and became so at a time that very very few women were doing that. She's very accomplished in her own right. It was tagging along with her that helped inspire you. Can you tell us a bit about that?

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** So in 1979, I actually met Kathy in 1978, but we started going out in 1979. And I had applied to medical school and was accepted into medical school. She had expressed an interest in flying and (7) was just starting her private pilot's license. And then ultimately how it transpired that I got a chance to go into space was based on being in a meeting of female pilots down in Florida where I met Linda Godwin, an American astronaut, that told me the Canadian space program is going to be hiring. So I got my application in and the rest is history.

**DC:** You talk about your kids. Your first child, Evan, very soon after he was born he was identified as having Down's syndrome. How did you take that news?

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** So initially it was tough because you have all these ideas about what's going to happen in the future. And then **(8) you realize that you know what? It is what it is.** And Evan has grown up to be a remarkable kid. And ,in fact, **(8) I learned many lessons from Evan about patience, perseverance and just having fun with life and things.** But we're blessed to have three amazing kids Evan, Olivia and Theo and it's been a lot of fun.

**DC:** Your wife is a commercial airline pilot. You were an astronaut. How did you manage your career at such heights with the added stresses that you have raising a family?

**DAVE WILLIAMS:** You know it's always a challenge trying to find balance, and my goal as an astronaut was to be able to succeed in my career, but also to be successful as a spouse and to be a successful father to our kids. And it requires a lot of commitment. So when I wasn't training I would be at home with the kids and often Kathy would be flying. So I'd be there with the kids. And then when Kathy was back from flying I'd be training in the simulators and things. **(9) So it is always a back and forth but between the two of us we were totally committed to our family as much as we were to our individual careers.**

