

1 Reading

3. Read the text quickly and match the questions a-f with the paragraphs 1-5. There is one extra question which you do not need to use. Then listen and check your answers.

- a. Why do people want to travel to space?
- b. What do we mean by 'space tourism'?
- c. Why is space tourism so expensive?
- d. Do space tourists need to train before their journey?
- e. Is space tourism only for millionaires?
- f. Is the trip dangerous?

1 There are two types: orbital and sub-orbital, but at present only orbital is available. Russian space companies offer individuals the opportunity to travel on one of their spacecraft for up to 2 weeks in orbit around the Earth. Sub-orbital flights will be available soon and will take space tourists directly outside the Earth's atmosphere, where they will stay for ten minutes or so.

2 For two reasons: the spectacular view and zero gravity. Looking down on our beautiful blue planet from space is a sight that only few people have ever witnessed. Also, imagine looking out into space where the stars are closer and brighter than when you're on Earth. It's something the majority of people want to experience along with weightlessness. Floating around is simply fun!

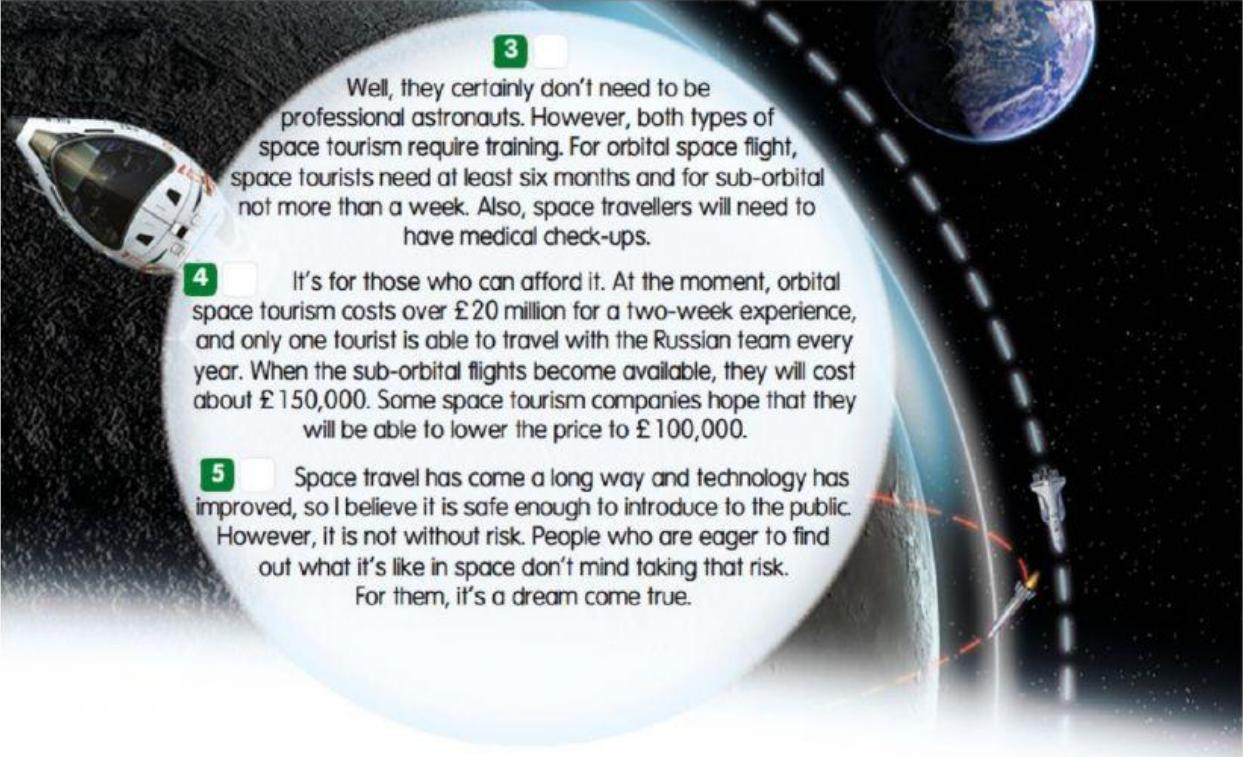
SPACE TOURISM

62 miles (boundary of space)

orbital

sub-orbital

Is it a distant dream for the very wealthy or something that we will all be able to enjoy in the future? We were able to interview a representative from ExploreSpace, Jeff Hilburn, and get some answers.

A photograph of a space station, likely the International Space Station, floating in the black void of space against the backdrop of Earth's blue and white atmosphere. The station's white and grey modules are visible.

3

Well, they certainly don't need to be professional astronauts. However, both types of space tourism require training. For orbital space flight, space tourists need at least six months and for sub-orbital not more than a week. Also, space travellers will need to have medical check-ups.

4 It's for those who can afford it. At the moment, orbital space tourism costs over £20 million for a two-week experience, and only one tourist is able to travel with the Russian team every year. When the sub-orbital flights become available, they will cost about £150,000. Some space tourism companies hope that they will be able to lower the price to £100,000.

5 Space travel has come a long way and technology has improved, so I believe it is safe enough to introduce to the public. However, it is not without risk. People who are eager to find out what it's like in space don't mind taking that risk. For them, it's a dream come true.

C. Read again and write T for True or F for False.

1. One of the differences between orbital and sub-orbital space tourism is the time they last.
2. The stars seem different when you look at them from space.
3. Sub-orbital space tourism will require one week to six months of training.
4. Russia offers a member of the public one orbital trip a year.
5. Space tourism companies are hoping that orbital flights will soon cost £100,000.
6. Jeff Hilburn believes that space travel has made great progress but should only be available to astronauts.

D. Find words/phrases in the text that mean the same as the following:

1. chance (para. 1)

2. very impressive, breathtaking (para. 2)

3. the largest part of a group (para. 2)

4. to move slowly in the air (para. 2)

5. to need sth (para. 3)

6. to have enough money to pay for sth. (para. 4)

7. to make progress (para. 5)

8. all ordinary people (para. 5)

9. the possibility of sth bad happening (para. 5)

10. very interested and wanting very much to do sth (para. 5)