UNIT 7 – The Future and the Space

Reading 1

Skills:

- Establish sequences

- Understand synonyms

Getting started: Are there any movies, books, or series about being in space that you have enjoyed? Which one(s)?

HOW TO BUILD A BASE ON THE MOON

1. Read the first sentence of each part and identify the first paragraph of the text. Do the same with the other parts. Write 1-4 at the end of each paragraph. Then, read the whole text and decide if the sequences are correct.

(A) A successful base would need protection against all of these threats, and, for people to stay there long-term, it would also require a constant supply of food, water, oxygen, power, shelter and rocket fuel, most of these being shipped from the earth. One of the most popular concepts for a lunar base is inflatable housing, which is lightweight and easily assembled by pressurizing from the inside. With the airlock from the landing capsule used as a door, these structures could provide a quick and simple solution to setting up a base. However, a puncture could prove catastrophic, so the pods would need to be protected and built in underground chambers or beneath piles of Moon dust. ____

(B) Finally, in the right location, solar panels could provide renewable power for the base, and, if plants are able to grow on the Moon, it could one day be possible to set up a semi-sustainable farming and composting system. Then, if water, oxygen and hydrogen (rocket fuel) could be extracted from lunar dust, a base might even be able to become self-sufficient. Unfortunately, there are still major challenges to be overcome before we reach this stage, not least the devastating effects of lunar dust. The dust seems to find its way inside even through securely closed spaces, causing rapid damage to equipment. There are some ideas to get around this, including cable cars or covered transport tubes to minimize the disturbance on the surface, and clean rooms and air locks to keep indoor spaces dust-free. ____

(C) Living on the Moon is an obsession mankind has always had. However, settling there is not an easy mission. The Moon has little atmosphere and none of the protection that we enjoy here on Earth. As a result, the surface is hostile. It is struck by solar winds, scorched by radiation, and pieces of rock regularly fall from the sky. The ground is covered by the shattered remains of ancient asteroid impacts, forming a thick layer of sticky dust and with no atmosphere or weather to make these particles disappear, the grains become dangerous as they are razor sharp. ____

(D) Flat panels could also be shipped in from Earth to build stronger domes or hangar structures, but it would be much more fuel-efficient to use building materials found on the surface of the Moon. When heated, lunar dust can be transformed into a tough solid material that could be used to construct

buildings and roads, and 3D printers could one day be used to make structures from the regolith (solid material covering the bedrock of a planet). ____

**Adapted from How it Works – World of Tomorrow. Fifth Edition. DK Publishing.*

2. Look at the highlighted words in the text. Match them with the synonyms from the box.

aggressive	establish	fragmented	give	hard
inside	nevertheless	put together	sent	unluckily

What do you think?

Do you think humans will be living on the Moon in the not-too-distant future?