

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

SPACEMEN'S AUTOGRAPHS



Only twelve astronauts actually (1) _____ foot on the moon during the US Apollo space programme (2) _____ 1969 and 1972. Some have since (3) _____ household names – (4) _____ Neil Armstrong, (5) _____ made the original “giant leap for mankind” and Buzz Aldrin, his co-pilot on that mission. The other ten are less well-known, (6) _____ if each made his own contribution (7) _____ the programme.

But to Paul Prendergast, a postal worker from London, they are all pioneers, worthy to be mentioned in the (8) _____ breath as the great explorers of earlier eras, (9) _____ as Christopher Columbus. Paul’s fascination (10) _____ the subject began in 2000 (11) _____ he attended a convention for people (12) _____ hobby is collecting autographs. There he met Alan Bean (fourth man on the moon) and Ed Mitchell (sixth). (13) _____ he remembers: “There (14) _____ television stars there, people from Bond movies, and so (15) _____, but these men had walked on the moon. I headed straight (16) _____ to meet them and ask for (17) _____ autographs.” For a collector, the challenge of (18) _____ hold of the remaining ten proved irresistible.

Yet Paul’s quest was never going to be entirely straightforward. After (19) _____, at that time, only nine of the astronauts were (20) _____ alive and two (21) _____ given up signing autographs years before. Paul eventually (22) _____ to achieve his goals, however, by establishing contacts (23) _____ other collectors, by buying (24) _____ reputable dealers and by attending specialist auctions.