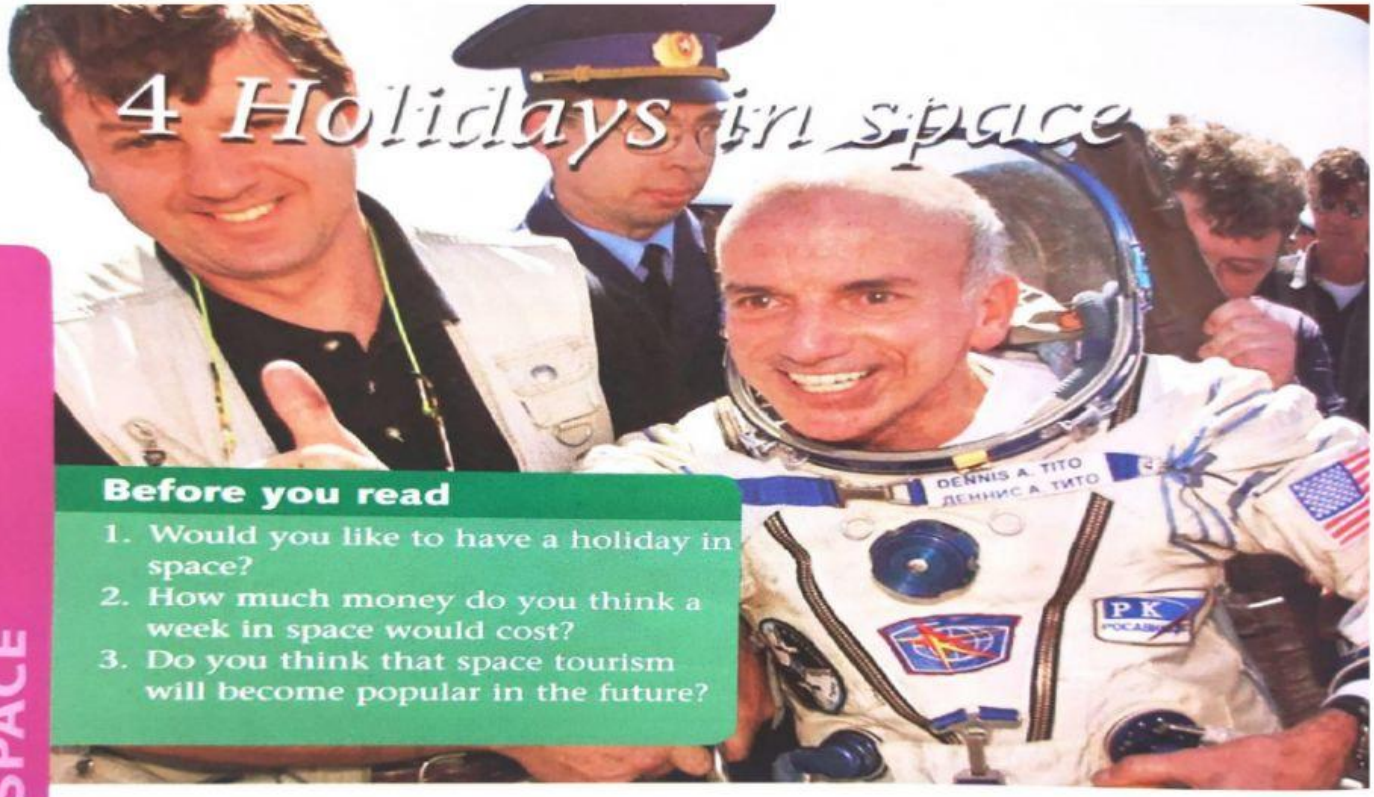
4 Holidays in space



Before you read

1. Would you like to have a holiday in space?
2. How much money do you think a week in space would cost?
3. Do you think that space tourism will become popular in the future?

Reading

1 Have you ever dreamed of going into space? Well, you're not alone. In 2001 an American businessman named Dennis Tito paid US$20 million to fly into space on a Russian spacecraft. Tito flew to the International Space Station, where he stayed for a week before flying back to Earth. He was the world's first space tourist.

2 Not many people have US$20 million to spend on a holiday! But prices are high because it costs a lot of money to send things into space. As the technology gets better, the cost of space travel will come down. Within fifty years, you could be paying just US$20,000 for a short flight into space. So what will you get for your money?

3 One company, Bigelow Aerospace, wants to take passengers to the moon and back. Another company, Space Island Group, plans to build a space hotel. Three hundred and seventy people have already reserved their seats on the VSS *Enterprise*, a spacecraft owned by Virgin Galactic. The VSS *Enterprise* takes its name from the spacecraft in the TV show *Star Trek*. The *Enterprise* will fly about 100 kilometres above the Earth and the flights will last two and a half hours and cost US$200,000. Virgin Galactic has 80,000 people on the waiting list!

By the end of the twentieth century only a few hundred people had been into space. It is amazing to think that, in the future, the same number of people could be travelling into space every day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

A. Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase.

technology within passengers already twentieth century

1. When the ship sank, fewer than fifty _____ survived.
2. The year 1901 was the first year of the _____.
3. As _____ gets better, the price of computers and digital gadgets is getting cheaper.
4. I called the police and they arrived _____ ten minutes.
5. My son is so clever. He's only five, but he can _____ read.

B. Choose the correct word with the same meaning as the blue words in each sentence.

visitors making hopes book unbelievable

1. We missed the Rolling Stones concert. We forgot to reserve tickets.
2. My sister plans to travel to France at the end of this year.
3. They're building a new school at the end of our street.
4. In some big cities a lot of shops often have one price for locals and a higher price for tourists.
5. Have you ever seen an Imax film? The screen is six storeys high - it's amazing.

SPACE

In other words

A. What is the main purpose of the passage? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

1. To describe the future of space tourism.
2. To describe Dennis Tito's trip into space.
3. To explain why space tourism will be so expensive.

B. Match each heading to the correct paragraph in the passage.

1. Paragraph ____ Technology improves, prices come down.
2. Paragraph ____ The world's first space tourist.
3. Paragraph ____ Space travel – reserve your seat now!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

General understanding

Circle T for true or F for false for each of the following statements.

1. Dennis Tito paid US$20 million to become the first space tourist. T / F
2. Tito was not allowed inside the International Space Station. T / F
3. In the future, the cost of space travel will probably come down. T / F
4. Many thousands of people had been into space by the end of the twentieth century. T / F

In detail

Write short answers to the following questions.

1. Who is Dennis Tito? _____
2. In what year did Dennis Tito become the world's first space tourist? _____
3. At present, the price of a space holiday is very high. Why? _____
4. Where does Bigelow Aerospace want to take people? _____
5. What is the name of the spacecraft owned by Virgin Galactic? _____
6. How long will the trips on the VSS *Enterprise* last? _____

In focus

Draw lines to connect each number with the corresponding unit of measurement and fact from the passage.

1. 20 million	kilometres	how far above the Earth the *Enterprise* will fly
2. about 100	hours	the amount Dennis Tito paid to become the first space tourist
3. the twentieth	US dollars	the first century of space travel
4. 2 to 2.5	US dollars	the possible price of a space trip in the future
5. 20,000	century	the planned length of the Virgin Galactic flights

LIVEWORKSHEETS