

Unit 10 - Test

Listening Comprehension

[Track 113] You will hear five different people talking about people in their family they admire. For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–F) what each speaker is doing. Use each letter only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

Speaker 1 ____

Speaker 2 ____

Speaker 3 ____

Speaker 4 ____

Speaker 5 ____

This speaker describes a relative who

A he or she would like to be more similar to.

B they no longer have a close relationship with.

C is good at meeting new people.

D they have become closer after a specific event.

E has helped him or her to achieve career ambitions.

F has a similar personality to him or her.

(10 points)

Reading Comprehension

Experience Mars

A

If I told you that, yesterday, I walked on Mars, would you believe me?

Our landing was a bit bumpy, but we touched down the right way up and without causing an accident. Then, dressed in a heavy pressure suit, it was time for me to take a hop, skip and a jump across the Martian surface, where gravity is just 38 per cent that of Earth's. And oh, was that wonderful! I felt like I could run forever. Except, no, I couldn't. I wasn't on Mars (of course) but in National Geographic's Experience Mars dome in New York City. And once we switched off the antigravity treadmill, I was very familiarly grounded on this planet.

B

For just the next few days, the Experience Mars dome and the interactives inside will give you a chance to experience a bit of what life on the Martian surface could be like – starting with that all-important landing, which is simulated using a pressure suit, a strange-looking machine and a virtual reality (VR) headset. It was amazing – and way too short – and much like the real thing, except that each simulation manages to land successfully, which doesn't always happen in reality.

C

The atmosphere on Mars, which is very thin and mostly made up of carbon dioxide, makes it difficult for humans to casually step outside for a breath of fresh air. In other words, one does not simply walk on Mars. Instead, you have to wear a spacesuit that provides breathable air and reasonable pressure. These protective suits are really difficult to get around in, which is why doing simple earthly tasks, like taking something out of a box, becomes frustratingly challenging. In fact, the spacesuits astronauts wear while spacewalking outside the International Space Station can weigh over 120 kilos on Earth. The only reason they can move around at all in space is because, when there is no gravity, nothing weighs anything.

D

At the Experience Mars dome, air pressure is used to help visitors experience the lower gravity of the Martian environment. Basically, air is pumped into a pressure suit which makes you feel you are floating in space. It's an exciting day out, but there is a more important purpose to developing this piece of equipment. It is all part of a programme to eventually send people to Mars. Sending humans to the Red Planet is something that politicians and scientists have been promising for a while, and much of the technology needed is in place. The problem is that achieving this goal will require a lot more funding from governments, and collaboration between the science programmes of different countries, and, at the moment, neither of these things is really happening.

E

Many practical questions also need answering before the first spaceship carrying humans far beyond Earth launches. One question is who gets to go. In the past, astronauts have been selected for their physical and mental strength, and their engineering ability, but, in the future, there will be the opportunity to include a wider range of people in space flight programmes. If we sent different people with different sets of experiences, abilities and insights into space, we would learn much more.

F

Whether humans first walk on Mars in the next decade or the next two decades, Mars is very much in sight. And I, who used to view this particular enterprise with cynicism, am very excited about the probability that people will walk on another planet in my anticipated lifetime – and introduce us all to worlds that used to seem so far out of reach.

5 You are going to read an article about going to Mars. For questions 1–10, choose from the paragraphs (A–F). The paragraphs may be chosen more than once. There is an example at the beginning (0).

In which paragraph does the writer

0 reveal where the Experience Mars dome can be found? A

1 say how she feels about the opportunity we have of going to Mars in the future? _____

2 explain how the Experience Mars dome has a bigger aim than just providing fun for tourists? _____

3 talk about what she did during her day out at the Experience Mars dome? _____

4 explain why things we carry or wear are so much heavier on our planet than on the Martian surface?

5 say why the first humans to walk on Mars might not be the sort of people typically sent into space?

6 explain how one of her opinions has changed? _____

7 say what pieces of clothing and equipment are used at the Experience Mars dome to make visitors feel

they are in space? _____

8 say what qualities were once required from people sent on missions into space? _____

9 give the key reasons why we haven't yet been to Mars? _____

10 say how much longer the Experience Mars dome experience will be open to the public? _____

(10 points)