

Title: A NASA spacecraft is set to make an uncontrolled plunge back to Earth. Here are the risks (source: CNN)

Reading text

A massive space probe could plummet into Earth's atmosphere as soon as Tuesday evening — years earlier than expected. And while most of the spacecraft will likely disintegrate in a flaming blaze during reentry, a few components could survive, according to NASA.

Early analyses predict the 1,323-pound (600-kilogram) vehicle will strike the atmosphere around 7:45 p.m. ET Tuesday, “with an uncertainty of +/- 24 hours,” according to NASA and the US Space Force.

The odds that a piece of debris will cause harm to a person is about 1 in 4,200, the space agency said in a [news release](#).

A massive space probe could plummet into Earth's atmosphere as soon as Tuesday evening — years earlier than expected. And while most of the spacecraft will likely disintegrate in a flaming blaze during reentry, a few components could survive, according to NASA.

Early analyses predict the 1,323-pound (600-kilogram) vehicle will strike the atmosphere around 7:45 p.m. ET Tuesday, “with an uncertainty of +/- 24 hours,” according to NASA and the US Space Force.

The odds that a piece of debris will cause harm to a person is about 1 in 4,200, the space agency said in a [news release](#).

A massive space probe could plummet into Earth's atmosphere as soon as Tuesday evening — years earlier than expected. And while most of the spacecraft will likely disintegrate in a flaming blaze during reentry, a few components could survive, according to NASA.

Early analyses predict the 1,323-pound (600-kilogram) vehicle will strike the atmosphere around 7:45 p.m. ET Tuesday, “with an uncertainty of +/- 24 hours,” according to NASA and the US Space Force.

Link bài: <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/03/10/science/nasa-van-allen-spacecraft-earth-reentry>

2. Reading Skills

This reading text helps students practice skimming and scanning skills. Students skim the text to understand the main idea about a NASA spacecraft reentering Earth's atmosphere. They also scan the text to find specific information such as the spacecraft's weight, the time of reentry, and the risk to people.

Reading exercises:

Short-answer questions

1. What is expected to happen to the NASA spacecraft?
2. When might the spacecraft reach Earth's atmosphere?
3. What will happen to most parts of the spacecraft during reentry?
4. Which organizations are monitoring the spacecraft?
5. What is the chance that debris could harm someone?

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the main topic of the article?
 - A. A new space mission
 - B. A spacecraft returning to Earth
 - C. Life on Mars
 - D. Satellite communication
2. How heavy is the spacecraft?
 - A. 200 kilograms
 - B. 400 kilograms
 - C. 600 kilograms
 - D. 800 kilograms
3. What will likely happen to most of the spacecraft?
 - A. It will land safely
 - B. It will burn in the atmosphere
 - C. It will stay in space
 - D. It will land in the ocean

4. Who is monitoring the spacecraft?

- A. NASA and the US Space Force
- B. The United Nations
- C. Private companies
- D. Airlines

5. What is the risk to people on Earth?

- A. Very high
- B. Extremely small
- C. Impossible
- D. Unknown

True / False

1. The spacecraft will return to Earth later than expected.
2. Most of the spacecraft will burn during reentry.
3. Scientists know the exact time of reentry.
4. NASA and the US Space Force are monitoring the spacecraft.
5. The risk to humans is very high.

Gap-Filling Summary

Complete the summary using words from the text.

A NASA spacecraft is expected to reenter Earth's _____ (1) soon.

Most parts of the spacecraft will _____ (2) during reentry.

However, some pieces of _____ (3) may survive and fall to Earth.

Scientists from NASA and the US Space Force are _____ (4) the situation carefully.

The chance that debris could harm someone is very _____ (5).