

Space Tourism



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Are you interested in visiting space?
Why or why not?
2. Do you think space tourism will be an option for everyday people one day?
3. What kinds of jobs will there be in the space tourism industry?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. world-renowned | a) a person who has many millions of dollars |
| ___ 2. inevitable | b) to postpone (delay) |
| ___ 3. handful | c) to get busy or become popular again |
| ___ 4. multimillionaire | d) to become accustomed to |
| ___ 5. premature | e) too soon |
| ___ 6. lure | f) a small amount |
| ___ 7. get used to | g) known worldwide |
| ___ 8. spectacular | h) a tempting reward or offer |
| ___ 9. put on hold | i) amazing to see |
| ___ 10. pick up | j) very likely to happen, impossible to stop |

Reading

SPACE TOURISM

Destination zero gravity

1. **World-renowned** astronaut Chris Hadfield says it's only natural for humans to want to explore space. Hadfield was first inspired by the US lunar landings. Like many astronauts, Hadfield believes that space tourism is **inevitable**.
2. A **handful** of people have already experienced space as a tourist. The first human to pay for his own trip to space was American **multimillionaire** Dennis Tito. Tito was inspired by the 1957 Sputnik launch. In 2001, the former NASA engineer paid about 20 million dollars for his week-long trip to the International Space Station (ISS). He went with the Russian space agency. Many other space agencies, including NASA, felt the space tourism flight was **premature**. Tito didn't let this stop him. He returned safely to earth saying, "I just came back from paradise."
3. Experiencing weightlessness is one of the **lures** of space tourism. Many astronauts say that experiencing zero gravity feels like freedom. They also say that it doesn't take long to **get used to** floating around. Dennis Tito said experiencing zero gravity was the most **spectacular** part of his space adventure.
4. A few space tourists have visited space since Dennis Tito, including an Iranian female. However, after the Columbia Shuttle disaster, the company that organized those trips, Space Adventures, **put** space tourism **on hold**. Space Adventures began **picking up** again in 2006. Still, only a handful of everyday people have been to space. After all, there are only a small number of multimillionaires who are interested in space travel. Dennis Tito hopes that the cost of space tourism will come down to one million dollars so that many more people will be able to experience what he did.
5. Would you spend one million dollars to go to space if you had the money? Which would you rather see, the moon or Mars?

"When you can feel that close to something you're used to seeing from this great distance, well, it changes a person."

—Sally Ride,
first US woman in space

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers below.

1. What inspired Chris Hadfield to become an astronaut?

2. Who is Dennis Tito?

3. Why does the reading mention the Columbia Shuttle?

4. What is Dennis Tito's hope for future space travel?

5. How does the reading end?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using a vocabulary word from page 1.
You may need to change the word form.

1. Neil Armstrong was a _____ astronaut.
2. Seeing a space sunset is _____.
3. Business will _____ again in the new year.
4. The astronauts _____ wearing space suits before they traveled to space.
5. The _____ of the moon has created another space race.
6. Only a _____ of everyday people have been to the International Space Station.

Grammar Review

GET USED TO

A. Reference

The expression "get used to" means *to become accustomed to something*.
This expression is used often by astronauts. It is regularly used
in the negative form: *I can't get used to seeing the earth from space*.
"Get used to" is followed by a *gerund* or a *noun*.

Form	Example
<i>get used to</i> + gerund (-ing verb)	The space tourist couldn't get used to floating at dinnertime.
<i>get used to</i> + noun	The astronaut got used to zero gravity quickly.

Grammar Review cont.

B. Practice

Write five more sentences using “get used to” on the topic of space tourism. Write at least two sentences in the negative form.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Discussion

1. What obstacles are currently in the way of space tourism?
2. Do you think there will be space hotels in the future? What would they look like? How would they differ from hotels on earth?
3. If the cost of a space flight goes down to one million dollars, do you think space travel will become common?

Critical Thinking

IN PAIRS OR SMALL GROUPS

Multimillionaire Dennis Tito once told a reporter that he would have paid his last penny for the opportunity to go to space, even if it meant he'd be poor for the rest of his life. Do you have any dream or goal that big?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

SPACE TOURISM

Destination zero gravity

1. World-renowned astronaut Chris Hadfield says it's only _____ for humans to want to explore space. Hadfield was first inspired by the US _____ landings. Like many astronauts, Hadfield believes that space tourism is inevitable.
2. A handful of people have already experienced space as a tourist. The first human to pay for his own trip to space was American multimillionaire Dennis Tito. Tito was _____ the 1957 Sputnik launch. In 2001, the former NASA engineer paid about 20 million dollars for his week-long trip to the International Space Station (ISS). He went with the Russian space agency. Many other space _____, including NASA, felt the space tourism flight was premature. Tito didn't let this stop him. He returned safely to earth saying, "I just came back from paradise."
3. Experiencing _____ is one of the lures of space tourism. Many astronauts say that experiencing zero gravity feels like freedom. They also say that it doesn't take long to _____ floating around. Dennis Tito said experiencing zero gravity was the most spectacular part of his space adventure.
4. A few space tourists have visited space since Dennis Tito, including an _____ female. However, after the Columbia Shuttle disaster, the company that organized those trips, Space Adventures, put space tourism on hold. Space Adventures began picking up again in 2006. Still, only a _____ of everyday people have been to space. After all, there are only a small number of multimillionaires who are interested in space travel. Dennis Tito hopes that the cost of space tourism will come down to one million dollars so that many more people will be able to _____ what he did.
5. Would you spend one million dollars to go to space if you had the money? Which would you _____ see, the moon or Mars?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about the future of space tourism. The lesson includes vocabulary review exercises, comprehension questions, and discussion questions.

LEVEL: Int – Adv**TIME:** 1.5–2 hours**TAGS:** discussion, tourism, space, travel, space tourism

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|-------|------|---------|
| 1. g | 3. f | 5. e | 7. d | 9. b |
| 2. j | 4. a | 6. h* | 8. i | 10. c** |

*Explain that “lure” can be used as a noun or a verb.

**Discuss a few different meanings of “pick up.”

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- The first lunar landings inspired Chris Hadfield to become an astronaut.
- Dennis Tito is an American multimillionaire. He was the first space tourist.
- The reading mentions the Columbia Shuttle because space tourism was put on hold after the shuttle disaster.
- Dennis Tito hopes that space tourism will come down in price to one million dollars.
- The reading ends with two questions for readers to ponder. It also introduces the idea of going to Mars, and presents a choice for the reader to consider.

Vocabulary Review

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. world-renowned | 4. got used to |
| 2. spectacular | 5. lure |
| 3. pick up | 6. handful |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Grammar Review

Individual example sentences.

Check out our blog for tips on teaching the various forms of *used to*. You'll find tips on teaching *used to* with negative statements and the question formation with the auxiliary *did*.

<https://ellii.com/blog/how-to-teach-used-to-in-6-easy-steps>

There is also a comparison chart and practice discussion questions on *used to*, *get used to*, and *be used to*.

<https://ellii.com/blog/used-to-get-used-to-and-be-used-to>

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Critical Thinking

Answers will vary.

Listening

1. natural, lunar
2. inspired by, agencies
3. weightlessness, get used to
4. Iranian, handful, experience
5. rather

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the word *Traveled*.

Most other English-speaking countries spell it this way: *Travelled*.

Make it a challenge for your students to find this word in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spelling.