

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

Actor's ashes to be scattered in space

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0507/050722-ashes-e.html>

Today's contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
After Reading	6
Discussion	7
Speaking	8
Listening Gap Fill	9
Homework	10
Answers	11

22 July, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Actor's ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of James Doohan, star of the 1960s sci-fi TV series *Star Trek*, are to be sent into space. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 at his home in Washington. His last wish was for his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, played the engineer Scotty in the three *Star Trek* series and seven Hollywood movies. Being in space forever is a suitable end for Mr. Doohan. He was associated with space travel throughout his 40-year career. He leaves on Earth nine children from his three marriages, the youngest of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into space by a Texas based company called Space Services Inc. The company specializes in space memorials. A spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will be launched in September. The ashes of *Star Trek* writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002, may be on the same rocket. The creator of *Star Trek*, Gene Roddenberry, had his ashes put into orbit in 1997. Mr. Doohan's ashes will be sealed in an airtight aluminum capsule, which will burn up when it re-enters Earth's atmosphere.

WARM-UPS

1. ASHES TO ASHES: Have you ever thought about your final resting place? Would you prefer to be cremated or buried? What do you think about having your ashes scattered in the following places?

- Space
- A river or ocean
- Mount Everest
- Your garden
- The playing field of your favorite soccer / baseball team
- Into the sky from an airplane above your country
- Nowhere. I want my ashes kept in one place
- Other

2. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think having your ashes scattered in space is best. Students B think having a traditional cremation or burial on Earth is best. Change partners often.

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Ashes / science fiction / 'Star Trek' / space / scattered remains / space travel / rockets / memorials / orbit / Earth's atmosphere

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. ASHES: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with ashes. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. LAST WISHES: In pairs / groups, talk about the following last wishes from different people around the world:

- a. I also want my ashes scattered in space but I can't afford it. (Jonah, Kenya)
- b. I want my children to eat some of my ashes. (Yuko, Japan)
- c. I want to be buried, not cremated, but Japan doesn't allow burials. (Kazu, Japan)
- d. To float down the holy Ganges River is the best end. (Sanjay, India)
- e. I want to be placed next to the rest of my family. (Kim, USA)
- f. Who cares? When you're dead, you're dead. (Lindsay, England)
- g. The ocean is best. You'll spread around the world. (Enrique, Brazil)
- h. I want my ashes to stay at home on the family altar (Wong, China)
- i. I want my body to be frozen. In future they can bring me back to life. (Monika, Poland)
- j. I think it's better for my family to decide after I die. (Miriam, Yemen)
- k. Scientific research. Let doctors take what they want. (Ingmar, Finland)

Change partners and compare your opinions.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. An actor is going to have his ashes scattered in space. | T / F |
| b. His wife decided to send her husband's remains into space. | T / F |
| c. The actor spent 40 years acting as a space traveler. | T / F |
| d. The actor leaves nine children on Earth. | T / F |
| e. The ashes will be taken into space on a Space Shuttle mission. | T / F |
| f. The ashes will be joined by those of a science fiction writer. | T / F |
| g. There is a company that specializes in space memorials. | T / F |
| h. The ashes will orbit the Earth forever. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. ashes | passed away |
| b. sci-fi | representative |
| c. died | during |
| d. associated | remains |
| e. throughout | transported |
| f. carried | space |
| g. spokesperson | container |
| h. creator | linked |
| i. orbit | originator |
| j. capsule | science fiction |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. star of the 1960s | be launched in September |
| b. his last | Earth's atmosphere |
| c. a suitable end | is five |
| d. throughout his 40-year | for Mr. Doohan |
| e. the youngest of whom | airtight aluminum capsule |
| f. carried into space by | sci-fi TV series |
| g. a rocket that will | wish |
| h. ...had his ashes put | career |
| i. sealed in an | a Texas based company |
| j. burn up when it re-enters | into orbit in 1997 |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

WORD ORDER: Put the underlined words back into the correct order.

Actor's ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of James Doohan, 1960s star of the sci-fi TV series *Star Trek*, are to be sent into space. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 at his home in Washington. His wish was for last his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, played the engineer Scotty in the three *Star Trek* series and seven Hollywood movies. Being in space forever end suitable is for a Mr. Doohan. He was associated with space travel throughout his 40-year career. He leaves on Earth three marriages from his nine children, the youngest of whom is five. The ashes carried space are to be into by a Texas based company called Space Services Inc. The company specializes in space memorials. A spokesperson said they rocket on a be could that will be launched in September. The ashes of *Star Trek* writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002, may be on the same rocket. The creator of *Star Trek*, Gene Roddenberry, put his ashes had into orbit in 1997. Mr. Doohan's ashes will be sealed in an airtight aluminum capsule, up when which will burn it re-enters Earth's atmosphere.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**last**' and '**wish**'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. WORD ORDER: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers.

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "LAST WISHES" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about death and your last wishes.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- ashes
- home
- scattered
- end
- travel
- five
- carried
- specializes
- joined
- creator
- orbit
- burn

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What did you think when you read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. What do you think of people's ashes being scattered in space?
- d. What would you like to happen to your body after you die?
- e. Have you ever thought about your final resting place?
- f. Would you prefer to be buried or cremated?
- g. Do you have a last wish?
- h. Have you ever seen *Star Trek*?
- i. Do you like science fiction books and movies?
- j. Are you interested in space travel?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What did you think about what you read?
- c. Do you think cremation is bad for the atmosphere?
- d. How would you like people to remember you?
- e. What kind of memorial would you like?
- f. Do you do anything to remember the members of your family who have died?
- g. Do you think there should be a law against scattering ashes in public places?
- h. Would you like your dead body to be frozen so that scientists might bring you back to life in the future?
- i. Would you like your body to be used in medical research?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

BEFORE I GO: Talk to your partner(s) about the things you would like to do before you leave the Earth. Finish this sentence starter:

Before I go I'd like to...

- a. visit _____.
- b. thank _____.
- c. meet _____.
- d. eat _____.
- e. tell _____.
- f. give _____.
- g. see _____.
- h. witness _____.
- i. know _____.
- j. make sure _____.
- k. (other) _____.

Change partners and share what you heard from your earlier partner(s).

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Actor's ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of James Doohan, star of the 1960s ____-____ series *Star Trek*, are to be sent into space. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 at his home in Washington. His _____ was for his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, _____ the engineer Scotty in the three *Star Trek* series and seven Hollywood movies. Being in space forever is _____ for Mr. Doohan. He was _____ with space travel throughout his 40-year career. He leaves on Earth nine children from his three marriages, the _____ of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into space by a Texas _____ company called Space Services Inc. The company specializes in space _____. A spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will be _____ in September. The ashes of *Star Trek* writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002, may be on the same rocket. The _____ of *Star Trek*, Gene Roddenberry, had his ashes put _____ in 1997. Mr. Doohan's ashes will be _____ in an airtight aluminum capsule, which will burn up when it ____-_____ Earth's atmosphere.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on Star Trek. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. ASHES POLICY: Write down some advice for your government on whether it is good or bad for people to scatter the ashes of dead people in public places. Show your advice to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all think about similar things?

4. LAST WISHES: Write a letter describing your last wishes. Read your letter to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all have similar last wishes?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. T b. F c. T d. T e. F f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. ashes	remains
b. sci-fi	science fiction
c. died	passed away
d. associated	linked
e. throughout	during
f. carried	transported
g. spokesperson	representative
h. creator	originator
i. orbit	space
j. capsule	container

PHRASE MATCH:

a. star of the 1960s	sci-fi TV series
b. his last	wish
c. a suitable end	for Mr. Doohan
d. throughout his 40-year	career
e. the youngest of whom	is five
f. carried into space by	a Texas based company
g. a rocket that will	be launched in September
h. ...had his ashes put	into orbit in 1997
i. sealed in an	airtight aluminum capsule
j. burn up when it re-enters	Earth's atmosphere

WORD ORDER:

Actor's ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of James Doohan, star of the 1960s sci-fi TV series *Star Trek*, are to be sent into space. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 at his home in Washington. His last wish was for his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, played the engineer Scotty in the three *Star Trek* series and seven Hollywood movies. Being in space forever is a suitable end for Mr. Doohan. He was associated with space travel throughout his 40-year career. He leaves on Earth nine children from his three marriages, the youngest of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into space by a Texas based company called Space Services Inc. The company specializes in space memorials. A spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will be launched in September. The ashes of *Star Trek* writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002, may be on the same rocket. The creator of *Star Trek*, Gene Roddenberry, had his ashes put into orbit in 1997. Mr. Doohan's ashes will be sealed in an airtight aluminum capsule, which will burn up when it re-enters Earth's atmosphere.