

Astronauts plug space station hole with finger

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via Alexander Gerst on flickr.com

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station have fixed a hole in the shell of the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is a large satellite in space that scientists live in to do

scientific experiments. The first part of it was put into space in 1998. Last week, NASA alerted astronauts on the ISS that the station was slowly leaking air. Astronaut Alexander Gerst and five other astronauts started looking for the leak. Mr Gerst eventually found it and quickly used a simple and effective way of stopping the leak - he put his finger over the hole. Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters wide so it was not a major emergency, but it did need fixing.

The hole was in a docked Russian Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft. NASA said it could have been caused by a small piece of space junk or a small meteorite colliding with the spacecraft. The ISS travels at speeds of around 28,000 kph. Even a tiny object hitting it can cause a lot of damage. Flight controllers in the USA and Russia worked together with the crew to fix the hole. The Soyuz commander, Sergey Prokopyev, used a heat-resistant "space tape" and a special glue to plug the hole. These are part of a "necessary space repair kit". A NASA official said the crew on the ISS are safe after the repair. He said: "The crew are healthy and safe with weeks of air left in the International Space Station reserves."

Sources: mnn.com / yahoo.com / rt.com

Writing

In the future, there should be cities in space. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

astronauts / cosmonauts / shell / satellite / space / air / leak / simple / effective / hole / space junk / meteorite / spacecraft / damage / crew / repair / safe / healthy

True / False

- a) A hole on the ISS was fixed by cosmonauts and astronauts. T / F
- b) Parts of the ISS have been in space since 1998. T / F
- c) A total of six astronauts looked for a hole in the ISS. T / F
- d) The hole in the ISS was 20 millimeters wide. T / F
- e) The hole was definitely caused by a piece of space junk. T / F
- f) A cosmonaut used special "space tape" to fix the hole. T / F
- g) A NASA official said the ISS crew weren't safe yet. T / F
- h) The ISS doesn't have enough reserves of air to last. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. fixed | a. warned |
| 2. experiments | b. all right |
| 3. alerted | c. created |
| 4. eventually | d. tests |
| 5. need | e. crashing into |
| 6. caused | f. repaired |
| 7. colliding | g. supplies |
| 8. tiny | h. finally |
| 9. safe | i. require |
| 10. reserves | j. very small |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the International Space Station?
- b) What do you think of space?
- c) What would it be like to live on the International Space Station?
- d) What is your favourite movie about space?
- e) What are the good and bad things about the ISS?
- f) How worrying is an air leak in space?
- g) What would you do if you went on the ISS?
- h) What advice do you have for the astronauts?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. scientific | a. around 28,000 kph |
| 2. the station was slowly | b. and safe |
| 3. he put his finger | c. emergency |
| 4. the hole was only | d. junk |
| 5. it was not a major | e. of damage |
| 6. a small piece of space | f. over the hole |
| 7. The ISS travels at speeds of | g. "space tape" |
| 8. cause a lot | h. two millimeters wide |
| 9. a heat-resistant | i. experiments |
| 10. The crew are healthy | j. leaking air |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the differences between American and Russian spacecraft?
- What are the dangers of space junk?
- Would you like to be an astronaut?
- What things would you need if you lived on the ISS?
- Would you be a good astronaut?
- Why do we need the International Space Station?
- What questions would you like to ask the astronauts?

Spelling

- The ISS is a large latestlie
- do icstnfeiiic experiments
- NASA taderle astronauts
- Mr Gerst etlnlayveu found it
- a simple and ctvfiefee way
- it was not a major mnregeyce
- a ecddko Russian Soyuz
- space junk or a small mteiooteer
- cidnlolig with the spacecraft
- used a heat-antitress "space tape"
- part of a "necessary space irepra kit"
- International Space Station vrsersee

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – E.T.

You think E.T. is the best space movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Star Wars, Avatar or Apollo 13.

Role B – Star Wars

You think Star Wars is the best space movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): E.T., Avatar or Apollo 13.

Role C – Avatar

You think Avatar is the best space movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Star Wars, E.T. or Apollo 13.

Role D – Apollo 13

You think Apollo 13 is the best space movie. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their movies. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Star Wars, Avatar or E.T.

Speaking – Space Movies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best space movies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| • Alien | • ET |
| • Apollo 13 | • Interstellar |
| • Wall-E | • Gravity |
| • Avatar | • Star Wars |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.