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## Level 3

# Over 18,300 apply for 14 astronaut jobs

22nd February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

## Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

A record number of people have applied to NASA to be part of its astronaut training program. NASA said it received over 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This is a record for the administration. Human resources officials at NASA will now spend the next 18 months looking at the applications to select the best ones. It plans to announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would be a lot of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity this is to be part of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting the men and women talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a pool of incredible applicants."

It seems there is a great desire to work on America's space program and perhaps go to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at all surprising to me that so many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of initial training. They will learn skills such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft systems, and learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for tourists, such as Boeing and SpaceX.

Sources: <https://thespacereporter.com/2016/02/nasa-receives-record-number-astronaut-applications/>  
<http://www.space.com/31987-nasa-astronaut-applications-smash-record.html>  
<http://www.themonitordaily.com/nasa-astronaut-application-pool-reached-18300-record/210868/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. ASTRONAUTS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about astronauts. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

*record / astronaut / training / program / applications / opportunity / talented / space / desire / surprising / diverse / backgrounds / candidates / teamwork / spacecraft*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. TRAINING:** What do you think trainee astronauts have to do? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What they have to do
Food	
Exercise	
Study	
Internet	
Health	
New skills	

**4. SPACE PROGRAMS:** Students A **strongly** believe governments should spend more money on space programs; Students B **strongly** believe they should spend less money. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. APPLICANTS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for an astronaut at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- physical fitness
- high intelligence
- good at physics
- leadership qualities
- team player
- good at engineering
- good sense of humor
- aviation background

**6. SPACE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "space". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. NASA has received its biggest ever number of applicants for jobs.    | T / F |
| b. It will take NASA 1½ years to choose the best applicants.            | T / F |
| c. NASA will announce the successful job applicants in 2018.            | T / F |
| d. Applicants will have to go into a pool and rise up.                  | T / F |
| e. A NASA spokesman was surprised at how diverse the applicants were.   | T / F |
| f. The top applicants will be interviewed at Cape Canaveral in Florida. | T / F |
| g. The applicants will learn spacewalking after two years of training.  | T / F |
| h. The applicants could join private companies such as Boeing.          | T / F |

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

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. program     | a. give         |
| 2. received    | b. chance       |
| 3. next        | c. unbelievable |
| 4. opportunity | d. working      |
| 5. incredible  | e. upcoming     |
| 6. desire      | f. varied       |
| 7. diverse     | g. course       |
| 8. contribute  | h. like         |
| 9. such as     | i. wish         |
| 10. operating  | j. got          |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. A record number of people          | a. the best ones       |
| 2. select                             | b. training            |
| 3. recognize what a great opportunity | c. to the top          |
| 4. be part of NASA's                  | d. desire              |
| 5. rise                               | e. our journey to Mars |
| 6. great                              | f. have applied        |
| 7. so many Americans from diverse     | g. this is             |
| 8. blazing the trail on               | h. for tourists        |
| 9. two years of initial               | i. exciting mission    |
| 10. companies making spacecraft       | j. backgrounds         |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ number of people have applied to NASA to be part of its astronaut training (2) \_\_\_\_\_. NASA said it received over 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This is a record for the administration. Human resources (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at NASA will now spend the next 18 months looking at the applications to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the best ones. It plans to announce the successful applicants in the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would be a lot of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great (6) \_\_\_\_\_ this is to be part of NASA's exciting mission. I look (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to meeting the men and women talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of incredible applicants."

*select*  
*record*  
*middle*  
*forward*  
*officials*  
*pool*  
*program*  
*opportunity*

It seems there is a great (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to work on America's space program and perhaps go to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at all (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to me that so many Americans from (11) \_\_\_\_\_ backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to Mars." The top applicants will have an (13) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of (14) \_\_\_\_\_ training. They will learn skills such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft (15) \_\_\_\_\_, and learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for (16) \_\_\_\_\_, such as Boeing and SpaceX.

*journey*  
*initial*  
*surprising*  
*desire*  
*tourists*  
*diverse*  
*systems*  
*interview*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

- 1) A record number of people have applied to NASA to be part of its astronaut \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. train in program
  - b. trainee program
  - c. training program
  - d. training programs
- 2) NASA will now spend the next 18 months looking at the applications to select \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. the best once
  - b. the best ones
  - c. the best one
  - d. the best wins
- 3) It plans to announce the successful applicants in the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. middle for 2017
  - b. middle off 2017
  - c. middle in 2017
  - d. middle of 2017
- 4) so many people recognize what a great opportunity this is to be part of NASA's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. excite in mission
  - b. exciting mission
  - c. exciting missions
  - d. excited mission
- 5) talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a pool \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of incredible applicant
  - b. of incredibly applicants
  - c. of incredible applicants
  - d. of incredibly applicant
- 6) It seems there is a great desire to work on America's space program and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. perhaps go to Mars
  - b. perhaps gone to Mars
  - c. perhaps went to Mars
  - d. perhaps been to Mars
- 7) Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on hour journey
  - b. one hour journey
  - c. on our journey
  - d. one our journey
- 8) The chosen candidates will then get two years \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of initial train in
  - b. of initially training
  - c. of initial training
  - d. of initially train in
- 9) They will learn skills such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. spacecraft system
  - b. space crafty systems
  - c. space crafted systems
  - d. spacecraft systems
- 10) they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. spacecraft for tourism
  - b. spacecraft for tourist
  - c. spacecraft four tourists
  - d. spacecraft for tourists

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

A record number of people (1) \_\_\_\_\_ NASA to be part of its astronaut training program. NASA said it received over 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the administration. Human resources officials at NASA will (3) \_\_\_\_\_ 18 months looking at the applications to select the best ones. It plans to announce the successful applicants (4) \_\_\_\_\_ 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would be a lot of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting the men and women talented enough to rise (6) \_\_\_\_\_ what is always a pool of incredible applicants."

It seems there is a great (7) \_\_\_\_\_ on America's space program and perhaps go to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at all surprising (8) \_\_\_\_\_ many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing (9) \_\_\_\_\_ journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years (10) \_\_\_\_\_. They will learn skills such as spacewalking, teamwork (11) \_\_\_\_\_ spacecraft systems, and learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft (12) \_\_\_\_\_ Boeing and SpaceX.

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

1. What is special about the 18,300 job applications?

---

2. How long will NASA spend looking at the applications?

---

3. When will NASA announce the successful applicants?

---

4. What did Brian Kelly say about looking at all the job applications?

---

5. Who does Brian Kelly look forward to meeting?

---

6. Which planet might NASA's new astronauts go to?

---

7. What kind of backgrounds did Charlie Bolden say applicants were from?

---

8. What is the name of the space center where interviews will take place?

---

9. What language will the applicants need to learn?

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10. What other spacecraft company was mentioned besides Boeing?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

1. What is special about the 18,300 job applications?
  - a) It was a record
  - b) nothing
  - c) It was the same as last year
  - d) NASA's new rocket is called 18300
2. How long will NASA spend looking at the applications?
  - a) 20 months
  - b) 2 years
  - c) 1½ years
  - d) 12 months
3. When will NASA announce the successful applicants?
  - a) not until 2019
  - b) mid-2017
  - c) early-2018
  - d) at the end of this year
4. What did Brian Kelly say about looking at all the job applications?
  - a) nothing
  - b) he had a headache
  - c) he was happy
  - d) it would be a lot of work
5. Who does Brian Kelly look forward to meeting?
  - a) the men and women
  - b) aliens
  - c) cosmonauts
  - d) human resources officers
6. Which planet might NASA's new astronauts go to?
  - a) Jupiter
  - b) Mercury
  - c) Venus
  - d) Mars
7. What kind of backgrounds did Charlie Bolden say applicants were from?
  - a) poor backgrounds
  - b) diverse backgrounds
  - c) technical backgrounds
  - d) rich backgrounds
8. What is the name of the space center where interviews will take place?
  - a) Columbia
  - b) Cape Canaveral
  - c) Kennedy
  - d) Johnson
9. What language will the applicants need to learn?
  - a) English
  - b) Spanish
  - c) Russian
  - d) Chinese
10. What other spacecraft company was mentioned besides Boeing?
  - a) Virgin
  - b) SpaceX
  - c) Lockheed
  - d) Mir

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

## **Role A – Physical fitness**

You think physical fitness is most important for an astronaut. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): being a team player, engineering skills or a sense of humor.

## **Role B – Team player**

You think being a team player is most important for an astronaut. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): physical fitness, engineering skills or a sense of humor.

## **Role C – Engineering skills**

You think engineering skills is most important for an astronaut. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): being a team player, physical fitness or a sense of humor.

## **Role D – Sense of humor**

You think a sense of humor is most important for an astronaut. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): being a team player, engineering skills or physical fitness.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

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

<b>training</b>	<b>program</b>
-----------------	----------------

- 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. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

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

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number</li><li>• just</li><li>• months</li><li>• 2017</li><li>• great</li><li>• pool</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• desire</li><li>• many</li><li>• journey</li><li>• two</li><li>• skills</li><li>• tourists</li></ul>
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# ASTRONAUTS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

Write five GOOD questions about astronauts in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# ASTRONAUTS DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'astronaut'?
- 3) What do you know about NASA?
- 4) Why do so many people want to be astronauts?
- 5) What do you think it would be like to go into space?
- 6) What job would you be best at?
- 7) How far will humans go in space?
- 8) What do astronauts do every day when they are in space?
- 9) What do you think of the idea of living in space?
- 10) What advice do you have for NASA's job applicants?

*Over 18,300 apply for 14 astronaut jobs – 22nd February, 2016*  
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# ASTRONAUTS DISCUSSION

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

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What kind of people become astronauts?
- 13) Would you be a good astronaut? Why?
- 14) What do astronauts do in their training?
- 15) How good or bad are you at job interviews?
- 16) How important is a nation's space program?
- 17) How do people learn to do spacewalks?
- 18) What are the bad things about being an astronaut?
- 19) If you could choose any job, what would you do?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask the boss of NASA?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

A record number of people have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to NASA to be part of its astronaut training program. NASA said it received over 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This is a record (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the administration. Human resources officials at NASA will now (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the next 18 months looking at the applications to select the best ones. It plans to announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would be a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity this is to be part of NASA's exciting (5) \_\_\_\_\_. I look forward to meeting the men and women talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of incredible applicants."

It seems there is a great desire to work (7) \_\_\_\_\_ America's space program and perhaps go to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at (8) \_\_\_\_\_ surprising to me that so many Americans from (9) \_\_\_\_\_ backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ training. They will learn skills such (11) \_\_\_\_\_ spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft systems, and learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for tourists, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ as Boeing and SpaceX.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                 |                |              |              |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) application | (b) applies    | (c) applying | (d) applied  |
| 2.  | (a) to          | (b) by         | (c) as       | (d) for      |
| 3.  | (a) buy         | (b) spend      | (c) purchase | (d) budget   |
| 4.  | (a) loads       | (b) great      | (c) lot      | (d) many     |
| 5.  | (a) mission     | (b) missile    | (c) missive  | (d) missing  |
| 6.  | (a) pool        | (b) pond       | (c) puddle   | (d) polar    |
| 7.  | (a) as          | (b) of         | (c) to       | (d) on       |
| 8.  | (a) all         | (b) every      | (c) whole    | (d) each     |
| 9.  | (a) converse    | (b) diverse    | (c) reverse  | (d) observe  |
| 10. | (a) initially   | (b) initialize | (c) initial  | (d) initials |
| 11. | (a) was         | (b) has        | (c) as       | (d) is       |
| 12. | (a) much        | (b) such       | (c) thus     | (d) most     |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. A record number of people have paeldpi to NASA
2. Human oeeursrsc officials
3. csteel the best ones
4. what a great opuproytin this is
5. be part of NASA's exciting ionssmi
6. a pool of redncliieb applicants

## Paragraph 2

7. a great idrsee
8. Americans from rivdsee backgrounds
9. personally nutoecitbr
10. our neoyrju to Mars
11. two years of iliinta training
12. making spacecraft for rttsuosi



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) at NASA will now spend the next 18 months looking at the applications to select the best ones. It plans
- ( ) spacecraft systems, and learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work
- ( ) enough to rise to the top of what is always a pool of incredible applicants."
- ( ) for companies making spacecraft for tourists, such as Boeing and SpaceX.
- ( ) opportunity this is to be part of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting the men and women talented
- ( ) It seems there is a great desire to work on America's space program and perhaps go
- ( **1** ) A record number of people have applied to NASA to be part of its astronaut training program. NASA said it received
- ( ) to announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would
- ( ) to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at all surprising to me that so many Americans from diverse
- ( ) over 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This is a record for the administration. Human resources officials
- ( ) be a lot of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great
- ( ) interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of initial
- ( ) backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an
- ( ) training. They will learn skills such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

1. have NASA record people to A of applied number .

---

2. next looking applications the months the Spend 18 at .

---

3. the in of Announce applicants middle successful the 2017 .

---

4. to be part of What a great opportunity this is .

---

5. to rise Women to talented the enough top .

---

6. Americans to from diverse So backgrounds many want .

---

7. journey to Mars Contribute to blazing the trail on our .

---

8. applicants top The interview an have will .

---

9. years training will two initial Candidates get of then .

---

10. tourists for spacecraft making companies for Work .

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

A record number of people have *applied / applying* to NASA to be part of its astronaut training program. NASA said it received *over / more* 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This is a *recorded / record* for the administration. Human resources *official / officials* at NASA will now spend the next 18 months looking *at / by* the applications to select the best ones. It plans to announce the successful applicants in the *middle / center* of 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would be a *lot / loads* of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a *greet / great* opportunity this is to be part of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to *meet / meeting* the men and women talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a *pool / peel* of incredible applicants."

It seems there is a great desire to work on America's *space / spatial* program and perhaps go to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at all *surprising / surprised* to me that so *many / much* Americans from diverse backgrounds want to *person / personally* contribute to blazing the trail on our journey *from / to* Mars." The top applicants will have an interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The *choosing / chosen* candidates will then get two years of *initial / first* training. They will learn skills such *as / has* spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft systems, and learn Russian. After that, they could *gone / go* to the International Space Station or work for *company / companies* making spacecraft for tourists, such as Boeing and SpaceX.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

\_ r \_ c \_ rd \_ n \_ mb \_ r \_ f \_ p \_ \_ pl \_ h \_ v \_ \_ ppl \_ \_ d \_ t \_ N \_ S \_ t \_ b \_  
p \_ rt \_ f \_ ts \_ str \_ n \_ \_ t \_ tr \_ n \_ ng \_ pr \_ gr \_ m . N \_ S \_ s \_ \_ d \_ t \_  
r \_ c \_ \_ v \_ d \_ \_ v \_ r \_ 18,300 \_ ppl \_ c \_ t \_ \_ ns \_ f \_ r \_ j \_ st \_ 14 \_ j \_ bs .  
Th \_ s \_ \_ s \_ \_ r \_ c \_ rd \_ f \_ r \_ th \_ \_ dm \_ n \_ str \_ t \_ \_ n . H \_ m \_ n \_  
r \_ s \_ \_ rc \_ s \_ ff \_ c \_ \_ ls \_ \_ t \_ N \_ S \_ w \_ ll \_ n \_ w \_ sp \_ nd \_ th \_ n \_ xt \_  
18 \_ m \_ nth \_ s \_ l \_ \_ k \_ ng \_ \_ t \_ th \_ \_ ppl \_ c \_ t \_ \_ ns \_ t \_ s \_ l \_ ct \_ th \_  
b \_ st \_ \_ n \_ s . \_ \_ t \_ pl \_ ns \_ t \_ \_ nn \_ \_ nc \_ \_ th \_ s \_ cc \_ ss \_ f \_ l \_  
\_ ppl \_ c \_ nts \_ n \_ th \_ m \_ ddl \_ \_ f \_ 2017 . Br \_ \_ n \_ K \_ lly \_ f \_ N \_ S \_  
s \_ \_ d \_ \_ t \_ w \_ \_ ld \_ b \_ \_ \_ l \_ t \_ \_ f \_ w \_ rk . H \_ \_ dd \_ d : " \_ t 's \_  
h \_ \_ rt \_ n \_ ng \_ t \_ kn \_ w \_ s \_ m \_ ny \_ p \_ \_ pl \_ r \_ c \_ gn \_ z \_ wh \_ t \_ \_  
gr \_ \_ t \_ \_ pp \_ rt \_ n \_ ty \_ th \_ s \_ \_ s \_ t \_ b \_ \_ p \_ rt \_ f \_ N \_ S \_ 's \_  
\_ xc \_ t \_ ng \_ m \_ ss \_ \_ n . \_ l \_ \_ k \_ f \_ rw \_ rd \_ t \_ m \_ \_ t \_ ng \_ th \_ m \_ n \_  
\_ nd \_ w \_ m \_ n \_ t \_ l \_ nt \_ d \_ \_ n \_ gh \_ t \_ r \_ s \_ t \_ th \_ t \_ p \_ f \_ wh \_ t \_  
\_ s \_ \_ lw \_ ys \_ \_ p \_ \_ l \_ f \_ ncr \_ d \_ bl \_ \_ ppl \_ c \_ nts . "

\_ t \_ s \_ \_ ms \_ th \_ r \_ \_ s \_ \_ gr \_ \_ t \_ d \_ s \_ r \_ t \_ w \_ rk \_ n \_ m \_ r \_ c \_ 's \_  
sp \_ c \_ pr \_ gr \_ m \_ nd \_ p \_ rh \_ ps \_ g \_ t \_ M \_ rs . N \_ S \_ 's \_ Ch \_ rl \_ \_  
B \_ ld \_ n \_ s \_ \_ d : " \_ t 's \_ n \_ t \_ t \_ ll \_ s \_ rpr \_ s \_ ng \_ t \_ m \_ th \_ t \_ s \_  
m \_ ny \_ \_ m \_ r \_ c \_ ns \_ fr \_ m \_ d \_ v \_ rs \_ \_ b \_ ckgr \_ \_ nds \_ w \_ nt \_ t \_  
p \_ rs \_ n \_ lly \_ c \_ ntr \_ b \_ t \_ t \_ bl \_ z \_ ng \_ th \_ tr \_ \_ l \_ \_ n \_ \_ r \_  
j \_ \_ rn \_ y \_ t \_ M \_ rs . " Th \_ t \_ p \_ \_ ppl \_ c \_ nts \_ w \_ ll \_ h \_ v \_ \_ n \_  
\_ nt \_ rv \_ \_ w \_ \_ t \_ th \_ J \_ hns \_ n \_ Sp \_ c \_ C \_ nt \_ r \_ n \_ H \_ \_ st \_ n , \_  
T \_ x \_ s . Th \_ ch \_ s \_ n \_ c \_ nd \_ d \_ t \_ s \_ w \_ ll \_ th \_ n \_ g \_ t \_ tw \_ y \_ \_ rs \_  
\_ f \_ n \_ t \_ \_ l \_ tr \_ n \_ ng . Th \_ y \_ w \_ ll \_ l \_ \_ rn \_ sk \_ lls \_ s \_ ch \_ \_ s \_  
sp \_ c \_ w \_ lk \_ ng , \_ t \_ mw \_ rk \_ \_ nd \_ \_ p \_ r \_ t \_ ng \_ sp \_ c \_ cr \_ ft \_  
syst \_ ms , \_ nd \_ l \_ \_ rn \_ R \_ ss \_ \_ n . \_ ft \_ r \_ th \_ t , th \_ y \_ c \_ \_ ld \_ g \_  
t \_ th \_ \_ nt \_ rn \_ t \_ \_ n \_ l \_ Sp \_ c \_ St \_ t \_ \_ n \_ \_ r \_ w \_ rk \_ f \_ r \_  
c \_ mp \_ n \_ \_ s \_ m \_ k \_ ng \_ sp \_ c \_ cr \_ ft \_ f \_ r \_ t \_ \_ r \_ sts , \_ s \_ ch \_ \_ s \_  
B \_ \_ \_ ng \_ \_ nd \_ Sp \_ c \_ X .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

a record number of people have applied to nasa to be part of its astronaut training program nasa said it received over 18300 applications for just 14 jobs this is a record for the administration human resources officials at nasa will now spend the next 18 months looking at the applications to select the best ones it plans to announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017 brian kelly of nasa said it would be a lot of work he added "it's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity this is to be part of nasa's exciting mission i look forward to meeting the men and women talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a pool of incredible applicants"

it seems there is a great desire to work on america's space program and perhaps go to mars nasa's charlie bolden said "it's not at all surprising to me that so many americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to mars" the top applicants will have an interview at the johnson space center in houston texas the chosen candidates will then get two years of initial training they will learn skills such as spacewalking teamwork and operating spacecraft systems and learn russian after that they could go to the international space station or work for companies making spacecraft for tourists such as boeing and spacex

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts.html>

A record number of people have applied to NASA to be part of its astronaut training program. NASA said it received over 18,300 applications for just 14 jobs. This is a record for the administration. Human resources officials at NASA will now spend the next 18 months looking at the applications to select the best ones. It plans to announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said it would be a lot of work. He added: "It's heartening to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity this is to be part of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting them and women talented enough to rise to the top of what is always a pool of incredible applicants." It seems there is a great desire to work on America's space program and perhaps go to Mars. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "It's not at all surprising to me that so many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of initial training. They will learn skills such as space walking, teamwork and operating spacecraft systems, and learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for tourists, such as Boeing and SpaceX.







# 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 out more about NASA. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. ASTRONAUTS:** Make a poster about astronauts and the jobs they do. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SPACE PROGRAM:** Write a magazine article about the importance of space programs. Include imaginary interviews with people who think they are very important and with people who think they are not important.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on astronauts. Ask him/her three questions about astronauts. Give him/her three of your ideas. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. program     | a. course       |
| 2. received    | b. got          |
| 3. next        | c. upcoming     |
| 4. opportunity | d. chance       |
| 5. incredible  | e. unbelievable |
| 6. desire      | f. wish         |
| 7. diverse     | g. varied       |
| 8. contribute  | h. give         |
| 9. such as     | i. like         |
| 10. operating  | j. working      |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. It was as a record
2. 18 months
3. Mid-2017
4. It would be a lot of work
5. The men and women
6. Mars
7. Diverse backgrounds
8. Johnson
9. Russian
10. SpaceX

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a    2. c    3. b    4. d    5. a    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)