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**Level 3 – 4th September, 2018**

## **Astronauts plug space station hole with finger**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

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

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in the shell of its outer wall. 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: <https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/space/blogs/astronaut-uses-finger-plug-hole-space-station>  
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/space-station-alert-crew-forced-073544223.html>  
<https://www.rt.com/news/437382-iss-oxygen-leak-toothbrush/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. SPACE:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about space. 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?

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

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

**3. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION:** Students A **strongly** believe the International Space Station is necessary; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. ISS PROBLEMS:** What would you do in these situations on the ISS? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How big a problem?	Solutions
No lights		
Bullying boss		
Many cockroaches		
Homesickness		
Boredom		
Meteorite hit		

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

**6. SPACE MOVIES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

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

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. astronauts  | a. People (usually Russian) who are trained to travel in a spacecraft and go into space.   |
| 2. cosmonauts  | b. A scientific action to make a discovery, test a theory, or show a fact is true.   |
| 3. shell       | c. A machine or spacecraft put into orbit around the earth or moon or another planet in order to collect information or for communication. |
| 4. satellite   | d. The metal outside framework of a car, boat, space ship, etc.  |
| 5. experiments | e. People (usually American or linked to NASA) who are trained to travel in a spacecraft and go into space.                                |
| 6. leaking     | f. Successful in producing the result you want.  |
| 7. effective   | g. Accidentally losing liquid or gas through a hole or crack.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 8. docked     | h. Something sticky that is used for sticking objects or materials together.              |
| 9. junk       | i. About a spacecraft joining with a space station or another spacecraft in space.        |
| 10. colliding | j. A thing that can be touched.   |
| 11. tiny      | k. A supply of something that is not needed for use now but is available later if needed. |
| 12. object    | l. Crashing into something.   |
| 13. glue      | m. Very, very small.  |
| 14. reserves  | n. Old or thrown away articles that are thought to be useless or of little value.         |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

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

- 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**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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

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

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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          |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of its outer wall. The ISS is a large (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in space that scientists live in to do scientific experiments. The first (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of it was put into space in 1998. Last week, NASA alerted astronauts on the ISS that the station was slowly (4) \_\_\_\_\_ air. Astronaut Alexander Gerst and five other astronauts started looking for the leak. Mr Gerst (5) \_\_\_\_\_ found it and quickly used a simple and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ way of stopping the leak - he put his finger over the hole. Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters (7) \_\_\_\_\_ so it was not a (8) \_\_\_\_\_ emergency, but it did need fixing.

*eventually*  
*satellite*  
*major*  
*leaking*  
*wide*  
*shell*  
*part*  
*effective*

The hole was in a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Russian Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft. NASA said it could have been caused by a small piece of space (10) \_\_\_\_\_ or a small meteorite (11) \_\_\_\_\_ with the spacecraft. The ISS travels at speeds of around 28,000 kph. Even a (12) \_\_\_\_\_ object hitting it can cause a lot of damage. Flight controllers in the USA and Russia worked together with the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ to fix the hole. The Soyuz commander, Sergey Prokopyev, used a heat-resistant "space tape" and a special (14) \_\_\_\_\_ to plug the hole. These are part of a "necessary space (15) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*colliding*  
*repair*  
*docked*  
*crew*  
*reserves*  
*junk*  
*tiny*  
*glue*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

- 1) the International Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in the shell of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. its other wall
  - b. its outer wail
  - c. its outer wall
  - d. its udder wall
- 2) The ISS is a large satellite in space that scientists live in to do \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. scientifically experiment
  - b. scientific experiences
  - c. scientific experiments
  - d. scientifically experiments
- 3) NASA alerted astronauts on the ISS that the station was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. slowly leak in air
  - b. slowly leek in air
  - c. slowly lea king air
  - d. slowly leaking air
- 4) Astronaut Alexander Gerst and five other astronauts started looking \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. for the leak
  - b. for them leak
  - c. for then leak
  - d. for their leak
- 5) Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters wide so it was \_\_\_\_\_ emergency
  - a. not a majorly
  - b. not a majority
  - c. not a majors
  - d. not a major
- 6) NASA said it could have been caused by a small piece \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. off space junk
  - b. of spaced junk
  - c. of space junks
  - d. of space junk
- 7) Even a tiny object hitting it can cause a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. lots of damage
  - b. lot of damage
  - c. lot off damage
  - d. lot of damaged
- 8) Flight controllers in the USA and Russia worked together with the \_\_\_\_\_ the hole
  - a. clue too fix
  - b. crew two fix
  - c. crew to fix
  - d. clue to fix
- 9) used a heat-resistant "space tape" and a special \_\_\_\_\_ the hole
  - a. glued to plug
  - b. glue to plug
  - c. glued to plug
  - d. gluey to plug
- 10) The crew are healthy and safe with weeks of air left in the International \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Space Station deserves
  - b. Space Station preserves
  - c. Space Station reserves
  - d. Space Station conserves

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the shell of its outer wall. The ISS is a large satellite in space that scientists live (2) \_\_\_\_\_ scientific experiments. The first part of it was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in 1998. Last week, NASA alerted astronauts on the ISS that the station was slowly leaking air. Astronaut Alexander Gerst (4) \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts started looking for the leak. Mr Gerst eventually found it and quickly used a simple and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ stopping the leak - he put his finger over the hole. Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters wide so it was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ emergency, but it did need fixing.

The hole was (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Russian Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft. NASA said it could have been caused by a small piece (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Flight controllers in the USA and Russia worked together (10) \_\_\_\_\_ to fix the hole. The Soyuz commander, Sergey Prokopyev, used a heat-resistant "space tape" and a special glue to plug the hole. These (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of air left in the International Space Station reserves."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

1. What wall was the hole in?
2. When was the first part of the ISS put into space?
3. How many astronauts started looking for the hole?
4. What did an astronaut initially put over the hole?
5. How wide was the hole in the ISS?
6. What could have caused the hole, besides a small meteorite?
7. How fast does the ISS travel at?
8. What did a cosmonaut use in the hole that was heat resistant?
9. What did NASA say about the crew?
10. How much air is left on the ISS?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

- 1) What wall was the hole in?
  - a) a firewall
  - b) a great wall
  - c) an inner wall
  - d) an outer wall
- 2) When was the first part of the ISS put into space?
  - a) 2001
  - b) 1998
  - c) 1989
  - d) 1899
- 3) How many astronauts started looking for the hole?
  - a) 5
  - b) 3
  - c) 6
  - d) 4
- 4) What did an astronaut initially put over the hole?
  - a) his finger
  - b) a plaster
  - c) paper
  - d) chewing gum
- 5) How wide was the hole in the ISS?
  - a) 22mm
  - b) 12mm
  - c) 2mm
  - d) 20mm
- 6) What could have caused the hole, besides a small meteorite?
  - a) rust
  - b) space junk
  - c) gas
  - d) a fork
- 7) How fast does the ISS travel at?
  - a) 22,000 kph
  - b) 24,000 kph
  - c) 25,000 kph
  - d) 28,000 kph
- 8) What did a cosmonaut use on the hole that was heat resistant?
  - a) space tape
  - b) space gum
  - c) space film
  - d) space powder
- 9) What did NASA say about the crew?
  - a) they were smart
  - b) they were in danger
  - c) they were safe
  - d) they were cool
- 10) How much air is left on the ISS?
  - a) hours
  - b) weeks
  - c) days
  - d) months

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

## **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.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

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

space	station

- 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>• shell</li><li>• large</li><li>• first</li><li>• slowly</li><li>• simple</li><li>• two</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• piece</li><li>• speeds</li><li>• cause</li><li>• tape</li><li>• official</li><li>• air</li></ul>
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# SPACE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Write five GOOD questions about space 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.

# SPACE DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'space'?
3. What do you know about the International Space Station?
4. What do you think of space?
5. What would it be like to live on the International Space Station?
6. What is your favourite movie about space?
7. What are the good and bad things about the ISS?
8. How worrying is an air leak in space?
9. What would you do if you went on the ISS?
10. What advice do you have for the astronauts?

*Astronauts plug space station hole with finger – 4th September, 2018*  
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# SPACE DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'station'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the differences between American and Russian spacecraft?
15. What are the dangers of space junk?
16. Would you like to be an astronaut?
17. What things would you need if you lived on the ISS?
18. Would you be a good astronaut?
19. Why do we need the International Space Station?
20. What questions would you like to ask the astronauts?

## 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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of its outer wall. The ISS is a large satellite (2) \_\_\_\_\_ space that scientists live in to do scientific experiments. The first part of it was put into space in 1998. Last week, NASA (3) \_\_\_\_\_ astronauts on the ISS that the station was slowly leaking air. Astronaut Alexander Gerst and five other astronauts started (4) \_\_\_\_\_ for the leak. Mr Gerst eventually found it and quickly used a simple and effective (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of stopping the leak - he put his finger over the hole. Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters wide so it was not a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ emergency, but it did need fixing.

The hole was in a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Russian Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft. NASA said it could have been caused by a small piece of space junk or a small meteorite (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the USA and Russia worked together with the crew to fix the hole. The Soyuz commander, Sergey Prokopyev, used a heat-(10) \_\_\_\_\_ "space tape" and a special glue to plug the hole. These are part of a "necessary space repair kit". A NASA (11) \_\_\_\_\_ said the crew on the ISS are safe after the repair. He said: "The crew are healthy and safe with weeks of air (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in the International Space Station reserves."

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

- |     |                 |                |                 |                |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) shell       | (b) spell      | (c) smell       | (d) swell      |
| 2.  | (a) on          | (b) of         | (c) in          | (d) as         |
| 3.  | (a) retorted    | (b) resorted   | (c) averted     | (d) alerted    |
| 4.  | (a) looked      | (b) looking    | (c) looks       | (d) look       |
| 5.  | (a) way-ward    | (b) waylay     | (c) ways        | (d) way        |
| 6.  | (a) majority    | (b) majorly    | (c) major       | (d) majored    |
| 7.  | (a) ducked      | (b) docked     | (c) decked      | (d) duct       |
| 8.  | (a) colliding   | (b) collision  | (c) collusion   | (d) colluding  |
| 9.  | (a) controllers | (b) controls   | (c) controlling | (d) control    |
| 10. | (a) resist      | (b) resisting  | (c) resistant   | (d) resistance |
| 11. | (a) officialdom | (b) officially | (c) officials   | (d) official   |
| 12. | (a) right       | (b) left       | (c) oxygen      | (d) breath     |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. The ISS is a large latestlie
2. do icstnfeic experiments
3. NASA taderle astronauts
4. Mr Gerst etlnlayveu found it
5. a simple and ctvfiefee way
6. it was not a major mnregeyce

## Paragraph 2

7. a ecddko Russian Soyuz
8. space junk or a small mteiooteer
9. cidnlolig with the spacecraft
10. used a heat-antitress "space tape"
11. part of a "necessary space irepra kit"
12. International Space Station vrsersee

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

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

- ( ) to plug the hole. These are part of a "necessary space repair kit". A NASA official said the crew on the ISS are safe
- ( ) 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
- ( ) controllers in the USA and Russia worked together with the crew to fix the hole. The Soyuz
- ( ) of stopping the leak - he put his finger over the hole. Luckily, the hole was only
- ( **1** ) Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in the shell of its outer
- ( ) commander, Sergey Prokopyev, used a heat-resistant "space tape" and a special glue
- ( ) at speeds of around 28,000 kph. Even a tiny object hitting it can cause a lot of damage. Flight
- ( ) of it was put into space in 1998. Last week, NASA alerted astronauts on the ISS that the station was slowly
- ( ) two millimeters wide so it was not a major emergency, but it did need fixing.
- ( ) wall. The ISS is a large satellite in space that scientists live in to do scientific experiments. The first part
- ( ) 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
- ( ) after the repair. He said: "The crew are healthy and safe with weeks of air left in the International Space Station reserves."

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

1. do to scientific live Scientists in experiments .
2. other leak . for started looking the Five astronauts
3. stopping way simple, leak . of effective A the
4. his hole . finger He over put the
5. wide . hole Luckily, millimeters was two only the
6. a space junk . piece small of by Caused
7. small meteorite colliding spacecraft . A with the
8. speeds travels ISS kph . around at 28,000 of
9. space repair kit . Part necessary of a
10. are safe . crew ISS The on the

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have *fixed / fixing* a hole in the shell of its *other / outer* wall. The ISS is a large satellite in space that scientists live in to do scientific *experiences / experiments*. The first part of it was put *onto / into* space in 1998. Last week, NASA *alerted / averted* astronauts on the ISS that the station was slowly leaking air. Astronaut Alexander Gerst and five *another / other* astronauts started *looked / looking* for the leak. Mr Gerst eventually found it and quickly used a *simply / simple* and effective way of stopping the leak - he put his finger *over / above* the hole. Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters wide so it was not a major emergency, but it did need *fixed / fixing*.

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

**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 <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International  
Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in  
the shell of the station. The ISS is a large  
satellite in space that scientists use in  
the scientific experiments. The first part  
of the work was put into space in 1998. Last week,  
NASA ordered astronauts on the ISS that  
the station was slowly leaking air. Astronaut  
Alexander Grest and five other astronauts  
started leaking for the leak. Mr Grest  
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 millimetres wide so it was  
not a major emergency, but it did need fixing.

The hole was a duck-sized Rorschach MS-09  
spacecraft. NASA said it could have been  
closed 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 tiny object hitting it can  
cause a lot of damage. Flight controllers on  
the USA and Russia worked together with the  
crew to fix the hole. The Soyuz commander,  
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pace tap" and a special glue to plug the hole.  
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NASA officials said the crew on the ISS  
is safe after the repair. He said: "The crew  
are healthy and safe with weeks of air  
left on the International Space Station reser  
ves."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

astronauts and cosmonauts on the international space station iss have fixed a hole in the shell of its outer wall 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 ms09 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 28000 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 heatresistant 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"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1809/180904-iss.html>

Astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station (ISS) have fixed a hole in the shell of its outer wall. 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 "spacetape" 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."







# 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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. SPACE:** Make a poster about space. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION:** Write a magazine article about the International Space Station. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 the ISS. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e    2. a    3. d    4. c    5. b    6. g    7. f  
8. i    9. n    10. l    11. m    12. j    13. h    14. k

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. The outer wall
2. 1998
3. Six
4. His finger
5. 2mm
6. A small piece of space junk
7. About 28,000 kph
8. Space tape
9. They were safe
10. Weeks of air

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Scientists live in to do scientific experiments.
2. Five other astronauts started looking for the leak.
3. A simple, effective way of stopping the leak.
4. He put his finger over the hole.
5. Luckily, the hole was only two millimeters wide.
6. Caused by a small piece of space junk.
7. A small meteorite colliding with the spacecraft.
8. ISS travels at speeds of around 28,000 kph.
9. Part of a necessary space repair kit.
10. The crew on the ISS are safe.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. a    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 ;-)