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Level 2 – 8th September, 2022

Space travel changes astronauts' DNA

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220908-astronauts-dna-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220908-astronauts-dna-2.html>

Scientists found a new risk to space travel. They found that our DNA can change when going into space. This change could increase the risk of astronauts getting cancer. The scientists did research on the blood of 14 NASA astronauts who flew on the Space Shuttle between 1998 and 2001. They gave blood ten days before going into space and three days after returning to Earth. Professor David Goukassian said: "Astronauts work in an extreme environment where many factors can result in...mutations." He added: "Space radiation...means there is a risk that...mutations could develop."

Professor Goukassian's study could be important for the future of space travel. Several nations are working on going to Mars. Other countries want to build bases on the moon. Companies are also racing to start the business of space tourism. There are possible health risks to space travel and to exploring deep space. More research is needed to study how space travel might harm the body. This could help NASA's Artemis project, which aims to send people to the moon for the first time in 50 years. The last time humans went to the moon was in December 1972.

Sources: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11182509/NASA-astronauts-blood-shows-signs-DNA-mutations-spaceflight-monitored.html>
<https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/3622854-spaceflight-may-increase-the-risk-of-heart-disease-cancer-study/>
<https://www.universetoday.com/157440/even-short-flights-to-space-cause-cell-mutations-that-could-lead-to-cancer-and-heart-disease/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220908-astronauts-dna-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists found a new | a. extreme environment |
| 2. getting | b. radiation |
| 3. the blood of 14 | c. blood |
| 4. They gave | d. mutations could develop |
| 5. Astronauts work in an | e. risk to space travel |
| 6. many factors can result | f. cancer |
| 7. space | g. in mutations |
| 8. there is a risk that | h. NASA astronauts |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. important for the future | a. harm the body |
| 2. build bases | b. in 50 years |
| 3. exploring deep | c. on the moon |
| 4. More research is | d. to the moon |
| 5. space travel might | e. of space travel |
| 6. send people | f. needed |
| 7. for the first time | g. to the moon |
| 8. The last time humans went | h. space |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220908-astronauts-dna-2.html>

Scientists found a (1) _____ space travel. They found that our DNA can change when going into space. This change could (2) _____ of astronauts getting cancer. The scientists did research on the blood of 14 NASA (3) _____ on the Space Shuttle between 1998 and 2001. They (4) _____ days before going into space and three days after returning to Earth. Professor David Goukassian said: "Astronauts work (5) _____ environment where many factors can result in...mutations." He added: "Space radiation...means there is a risk that... (6) _____."

Professor Goukassian's study could be important (7) _____ of space travel. Several nations are (8) _____ to Mars. Other countries want to build bases on the moon. Companies are also (9) _____ the business of space tourism. There are possible (10) _____ space travel and to exploring deep space. More research is needed to study how space travel might (11) _____. This could help NASA's Artemis project, which aims to send people to the moon for the first time in 50 years. The (12) _____ went to the moon was in December 1972.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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DNA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220908-astronauts-dna-2.html>

Write five GOOD questions about DNA 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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220908-astronauts-dna-2.html>

Write about **DNA** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
