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Space shuttle Atlantis makes final voyage

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

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14th May, 2010

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

A chapter of space travel history closed on May 14th when the Atlantis space shuttle took off on its final voyage. The shuttle launched into clear blue skies as it headed into space. Atlantis made its first journey in 1985. Its last mission is to deliver batteries to the International Space Station. Mission Control had a special message for the six astronauts on board the spacecraft: "Good luck, Godspeed and have a little fun up there." Only two space shuttle flights remain after this one. NASA plans to end the 30-year programme by the end of this year.

It is a little sad to see the end of the space shuttle programme. Billions of people around the world have watched the launches on TV in the past 25 years. It is always an amazing sight to see the shuttles blast off and disappear into space. Many scientists think NASA should keep the shuttles working. President Obama has other ideas. He wants NASA to focus on different projects. These are to get astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and to orbit Mars by 2035. His plans do not include another Moon landing.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. A chapter of space travel | a. clear blue skies |
| 2. the Atlantis space shuttle took off | b. the six astronauts |
| 3. The shuttle launched into | c. on its final voyage |
| 4. Its last mission is to | d. after this one |
| 5. a special message for | e. history closed |
| 6. Only two space shuttle flights remain | f. deliver batteries |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. It is a little sad to see | a. amazing sight |
| 2. people around the world have | b. Moon landing |
| 3. It is always an | c. by 2035 |
| 4. He wants NASA to focus on | d. the end |
| 5. orbit Mars | e. different projects |
| 6. plans do not include another | f. watched the launches |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

A chapter of space travel _____ May 14th when the Atlantis space shuttle took off _____. The shuttle launched into clear blue skies as it headed into space. Atlantis made _____ in 1985. Its last mission is to deliver batteries to the International Space Station. Mission Control had a special message for the six _____ the spacecraft: "Good luck, Godspeed and have a little fun up there." Only two space shuttle flights _____ one. NASA plans to end the 30-year programme _____ year.

It is _____ the end of the space shuttle programme. Billions of people around the world have watched the launches on TV _____ years. It is always an amazing sight to see the shuttles blast off and _____. Many scientists think NASA should keep _____. President Obama has other ideas. He wants NASA _____ projects. These are to get astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and to orbit Mars by 2035. His plans _____ another Moon landing.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

A (1) _____ of space travel history closed on May 14th when the Atlantis space shuttle took off on its (2) _____ voyage. The shuttle launched into clear blue skies as it headed into space. Atlantis made its first journey in 1985. Its last mission is to (3) _____ batteries to the International Space Station. Mission Control had a special message for the six astronauts on (4) _____ the spacecraft: "Good luck, Godspeed and have a little fun up there." Only two space shuttle flights remain (5) _____ this one. NASA plans to end the 30-year programme by the end of this year.

It is a (6) _____ sad to see the end of the space shuttle programme. Billions of people around the world have (7) _____ the launches on TV in the past 25 years. It is always an amazing sight to see the shuttles blast (8) _____ and disappear into space. Many scientists think NASA should keep the shuttles (9) _____. President Obama has other ideas. He wants NASA to focus (10) _____ different projects. These are to get astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and to orbit Mars by 2035. His plans do not include another Moon landing.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) chapter | (b) novel | (c) sentence |
| 2. | (a) finally | (b) finish | (c) final |
| 3. | (a) delivery | (b) deliver | (c) delivered |
| 4. | (a) board | (b) bored | (c) boarding |
| 5. | (a) before | (b) after | (c) while |
| 6. | (a) little | (b) tiny | (c) small |
| 7. | (a) watch | (b) watching | (c) watched |
| 8. | (a) on | (b) off | (c) over |
| 9. | (a) working | (b) worked | (c) work |
| 10. | (a) off | (b) in | (c) on |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. A phcaert of space travel history
2. its final gvaoye
3. clear blue siske
4. Its last iosimns
5. a special gseaesm
6. two space shuttle flights einrma

Paragraph 2

7. lsilBnoi of people
8. watched the eclnhsua
9. ltsba off
10. focus on different esproctj
11. ribto Mars
12. Moon galnind

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () astronauts to an asteroid by 2025 and to orbit Mars by 2035. His plans do not include another Moon landing.
- () have watched the launches on TV in the past 25 years. It is always an amazing sight to see the shuttles blast
- () message for the six astronauts on board the spacecraft: "Good luck, God-speed and have a little fun up
- () voyage. The shuttle launched into clear blue skies as it headed into space. Atlantis made its first journey
- () working. President Obama has other ideas. He wants NASA to focus on different projects. These are to get
- () It is a little sad to see the end of the space shuttle programme. Billions of people around the world
- (**1**) A chapter of space travel history closed on May 14th when the Atlantis space shuttle took off on its final
- () in 1985. Its last mission is to deliver batteries to the International Space Station. Mission Control had a special
- () off and disappear into space. Many scientists think NASA should keep the shuttles
- () there." Only two space shuttle flights remain after this one. NASA plans to end the 30-year programme by the end of this year.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. travel space of chapter A closed history.

2. final voyage The Atlantis off took shuttle space its on.

3. skies blue clear into launched shuttle The.

4. board special the on A for astronauts message six.

5. by End this the year the 30-year end programme of.

6. end the see to sad little A shuttle space the of.

7. the launches world have People watched around the.

8. amazing It sight is to always see an.

9. projects to focus He on wants different NASA.

10. asteroid an to astronauts Get 2025 by.

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. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1005/100514-space_shuttle.html

Write about space travel for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

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. SPACE SHUTTLE: Search the Internet and find more information about the space shuttles. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about space travel. Include imaginary an interview with some astronauts. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. 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.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of NASA. Ask him/her three questions about space travel. Give him/her three of your opinions on space travel. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.