



## A. READING

### Before you read

*Work with a partner. Ask and answer the following questions.*

1. Who is the first human to fly into space?
2. Can you name the first humans to set foot on the moon?
3. Who is the first Vietnamese to fly into space?




## While you read

*Read the text about Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, the first human to fly into space and then do the tasks that follow.*

1. At 9.07 a.m. Moscow time on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1961, Yuri Gagarin lifted off into space aboard the Vostok 1. Approximately 12 minutes later, the first human being was in orbit around the Earth at a speed of more than 17,000 miles per hour. His flight lasted 108 minutes.
2. The 27-year-old Soviet cosmonaut became the first person to eat and drink in weightlessness. From his window in space, Gagarin was able to view the earth in a way that no human beings had done before. The first words spoken from space were: "I see the Earth. It's so beautiful!"
3. Before Gagarin's historic flight, there were still enormous uncertainties. No one knew precisely what would happen to a human being in space. How would the body react to the extreme changes in temperature? How would the mind deal with the psychological tension? If there was a technical failure, Gagarin might never get back to the Earth.
4. The success of Gagarin's flight attracted worldwide attention and made him a hero. In a telegram to Moscow, U.S. President John F. Kennedy wrote, "The people of the United States share with the people of the Soviet Union their satisfaction for the safe flight of the astronaut in man's first venture into space. We congratulate you and the Soviet scientists and engineers who made this feat possible. ..."
5. Gagarin could have made another space flight if a tragic accident had not occurred. He died in a plane crash on a routine training flight in March 1968. After his death, his hometown of Gzhatsk was renamed Gagarin, and the Cosmonaut Training Centre at Star City, Russia, was given the name of this national hero.

 **Task 1.** Match the headings to the paragraphs.

Paragraph 1	A. The tragic accident
Paragraph 2	B. The lift-off
Paragraph 3	C. Congratulations
Paragraph 4	D. A view on Earth
Paragraph 5	E. Uncertainties

 **Task 2.** Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. How old was Gagarin when he became the first human being in space?
2. How long was he in space?
3. What questions were raised before Gagarin's space flight?
4. What was the speed of his spacecraft in orbit around the Earth?
5. Why couldn't Gagarin make a new space flight?
6. What was done after Gagarin's death to honour this national hero?



*Gagarin's funeral in Moscow*

## After you read

Complete the summary of the reading passage by putting the words/phrases in the box into the blanks.


impossible	named after	lasted	gravity
success	view	in space	cosmonaut

On 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1961, Yuri Gagarin, a Russian (1) \_\_\_\_\_ became the first human being (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Although his flight (3) \_\_\_\_\_ only 108 minutes, its (4) \_\_\_\_\_ made him a national hero. He also became the first person to eat and drink in zero (5) \_\_\_\_\_, and he was able to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the Earth in a way that no one had done before. Unfortunately, a plane crash in March 1968 made Gagarin's desire of revisiting space (7) \_\_\_\_\_. After his death, his hometown and the Cosmonaut Training Centre at Star City, Russia were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ him.



*Yuri Gagarin*

## B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1. Work in pairs.** Read the following piece of news, then ask and answer questions.

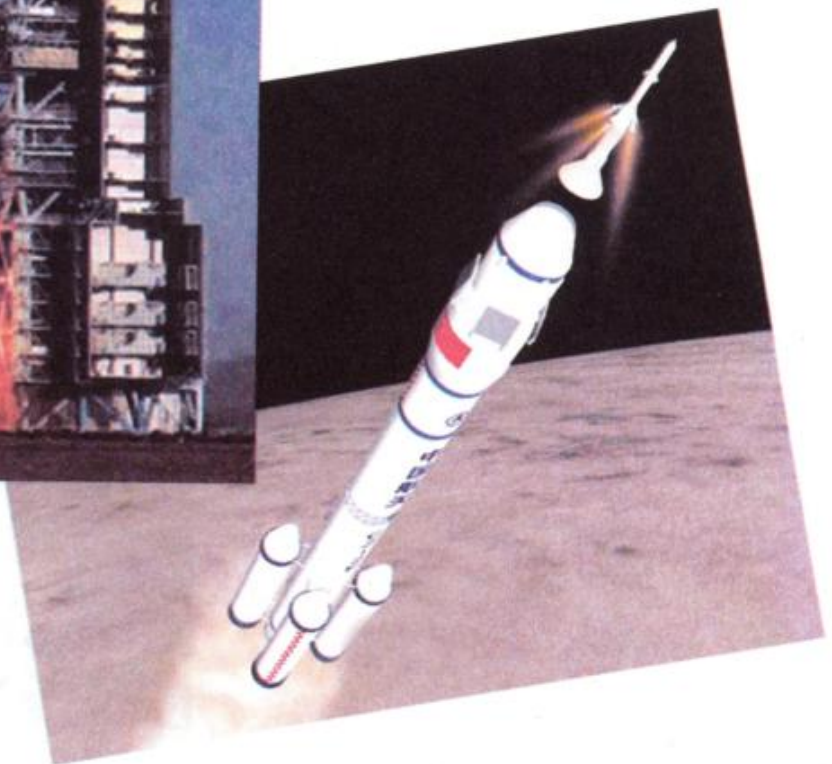
On 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2003, China launched its first manned spacecraft into space. The spacecraft was called 'Shenzhou 5'. Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut, was 38 years old then. The successful flight marked a milestone in China's space project. China became the third country in the world to be able to independently carry out manned space flights.


**Example:**

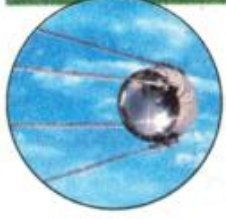







*When did China launch its first manned spacecraft into space?*



*Shenzhou 5*



 **Task 2. Work in groups.** Take turns to talk about the important events in space exploration.

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> October, 1957</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first artificial satellite: Sputnik</li><li>● mark beginning of Space Age</li><li>● made by the USSR</li></ul>	
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1957</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first living being in space</li><li>● a dog named Laika</li><li>● aboard Sputnik 2</li></ul>	
<p><b>12<sup>th</sup> April, 1961</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first human in space</li><li>● Yuri Gagarin, Russian cosmonaut</li><li>● 27 years old</li><li>● 108-minute flight</li></ul>	
<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> June, 1963</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first woman in space</li><li>● Valentina Tereshkova, Russian cosmonaut</li></ul>	
<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> July, 1969</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first humans to set foot on the moon</li><li>● Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, American astronauts</li></ul>	
<p><b>23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1980</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first Vietnamese in space</li><li>● Pham Tuan</li><li>● along with V.V. Gorbotko, a Russian cosmonaut</li><li>● stay 8 days in orbit</li></ul>	
<p><b>29<sup>th</sup> October, 1998</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● the oldest human ever to fly into space</li><li>● John Glenn, an American astronaut</li><li>● at the age of 77</li></ul>	
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> October, 2003</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● first Chinese in space</li><li>● Yang Liwei, 38 years old</li><li>● spend 21 hours in space</li></ul>	

## C. LISTENING

### Before you listen

*Work in pairs. Match the pictures with the captions.*



- ① Orbiting
- ② The Apollo crew
- ③ Walking on the Moon
- ④ The Moon landing
- ⑤ The first foot print on the Moon

● *Listen and repeat.*

Congress  
mission  
reminder


challenge  
experiment  
achievement

NASA  
Michael Collins  
Neil Armstrong


Kennedy  
Apollo  
Buzz Aldrin

## While you listen

You will hear a talk about the first human moon landing, one of the most important historical events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Listen to the talk and then do the tasks that follow.

 **Task 1.** Listen and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. In a speech to the press, US President Kennedy asked the nation to put a man on the moon. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. There were 11 astronauts on board the spacecraft to the moon.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The astronauts landed on the moon's surface at the same time.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. To walk on the moon, the astronauts had to carry a suitcase with oxygen in it.            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. An American flag was placed on the moon's surface after the moon landing.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

 **Task 2.** Listen again and answer the following questions.

1. Which program was developed to meet President Kennedy's challenge?
2. When was the Apollo 11 launched?
3. What was the portable life support system for?
4. How long did the astronauts stay on the surface of the moon?
5. What did they do while they were staying on the surface of the moon?
6. When did the astronauts return to the Earth?

## After you listen


*Discuss the following questions.*

1. In your opinion, what is the reason for the human interest in Mars and other planets in the solar system?
2. If you were offered a chance of going to the moon and you could take three things with you, what would you choose and why?



## D. WRITING

### Writing a biography


 **Task 1.** Below is some information about Neil Armstrong, the first human to set foot on the moon. Put each of the headings in the box in the appropriate blank.

Career	Place of birth	Date of birth
Quote	Known as	

#### Neil Armstrong *American astronaut*



- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1930
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Wapakoneta, Ohio
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the first person to walk on the Moon
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_ **1949-1952:** pilot in United States Navy  
**1955:** receive a B.S. / Purdue University  
**1962:** join NASA astronaut program  
**20<sup>th</sup> July, 1969:** become first human / step / Moon's surface  
**1970:** receive his M.S. / University of Southern California  
**1971:** resign / NASA  
**1971-1979:** teach / University of Cincinnati  
**1986:** appointed vice chairman / committee / investigate / space shuttle Challenger disaster
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_ "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

 **Task 2.** Write a biography of Neil Armstrong from the information given in Task 1.

## E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

- **Pronunciation:** /nt/ - /nd/ - /nθ/ - /ns/ - /nz/
- **Grammar and vocabulary:**
  1. Could/be able to
  2. Tag questions

### Pronunciation

- *Listen and repeat.*

/nt/	/nd/	/nθ/	/ns/	/nz/
went	end	month	chance	phones
rent	remind	seventh	Florence	learns
tenant	warned	tenth	glance	Barnes
didn't	friend	thirteenth	tense	tonnes

- *Practise reading aloud this dialogue.*

A: Florence, Mr. Barnes went on the tenth of last month.

B: Oh. I have warned you, haven't I? Did he pay the rent?

A: Only to the seventh.

B: Only to the seventh?

A: Yes, and we may have no chance to see him again. Is he your friend?

B: No, Mr. Barnes is not my friend and if he phones, remind him that he must pay the rent to the end of the month.

A: Don't be so tense. We'll have a new tenant on the thirteenth of this month.

## Grammar and vocabulary

**Exercise 1.** Complete the sentences, using *could*, *couldn't* or *was/were (not) able to*.

**Examples:**

– *My grandfather was a very clever man. He **could** speak five languages.*

– *I looked everywhere for the book but I **couldn't** find it.*

– *They didn't want to come with us at first but we **were able to** persuade them.*

1. Laura had hurt her leg and \_\_\_\_\_ walk very well.
2. Sue wasn't at home when I phoned but I \_\_\_\_\_ contact her at her office.
3. I looked very carefully and I \_\_\_\_\_ see a figure in the distance.
4. I wanted to buy some tomatoes. The first shop I went to didn't have any but I \_\_\_\_\_ get some in the next shop.
5. My grandmother loved music. She \_\_\_\_\_ play the piano very well.
6. I had forgotten to bring my camera so I \_\_\_\_\_ take any photographs.

**Exercise 2.** Read the situation and write a sentence with a tag question. In each situation you are asking your friend to agree with you.

**Example:** You look out of the window. The sky is blue and the sun is shining. What do you say to your friend?

(beautiful day) *It's a beautiful day, isn't it?*

1. You're with a friend outside a restaurant. You're looking at the prices, which are very high.

What do you say ? (expensive) It \_\_\_\_\_.

2. You've just come out of the cinema with a friend. You really enjoyed the film. What do you say to your friend? (great)

The film \_\_\_\_\_.

3. You and a friend are listening to a woman singing. You like her voice very much. What do you say to your friend? (a lovely voice)

She \_\_\_\_\_.

4. You are trying on a jacket. You look in the mirror and you don't like what you see. What do you say to your friend? (not / look / very good)

It \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Your friend's hair is much shorter than when you last met. What do you say to her / him? (have / your hair / cut)

You \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 3.** Mark and Jenny were showing some family photographs to a friend. Here are some of the questions that were asked. Complete the questions by adding the tag questions.

1. That's a lovely picture of Sally. She looks just like Mary, \_\_\_\_\_?
2. I think you've seen this one before, \_\_\_\_\_?
3. This photograph was taken in Scotland, \_\_\_\_\_?
4. We took this one on holiday, \_\_\_\_\_?
5. We'll be going there again next year, \_\_\_\_\_?
6. You can see the sea in the distance, \_\_\_\_\_?
7. That must be Jenny's father, \_\_\_\_\_?