The International Space Station

Start thinking
1 How many planets are there in the solar system?
2 Why is it difficult for humans to live in space?
3 Which countries invest the most money in space exploration?

Comprehension check

1 Watch the video clip and choose the correct answers.
   1 How far is the ISS above Earth?
      a 30 km
      b 386 km
      c 3,573 km
      d 32,410 km
   2 What do the crew have to do for two hours every day?
      a exercise
      b stand up
      c eat
      d do experiments
   3 When do the USA hope that astronauts will go to Mars?
      a by 2022
      b by 2027
      c by 2032
      d by 2037

2 Watch again and number the things you see in the correct order (1–8).
   ___ A man is floating in the ISS.
   ___ A man is running on a treadmill.
   ___ A man is shaving.
   ___ Two people are working on the ISS.
   ___ A man is speaking on a radio.
   ___ Two men are eating.
   ___ The ISS is orbiting around Earth.
   ___ A man is drinking.

3 Watch again. True or false? Write T or F. Correct the false sentences.
   1 ___ You can see it without a telescope.
   2 ___ The crew can’t see Earth if it’s cloudy.
   3 ___ It’s orbiting 32,410 km above Earth.
   4 ___ The crew are researching the effect of zero gravity.
   5 ___ The electricity comes from Earth.
   6 ___ The crew breathe oxygen made from water.
   7 ___ Today the crew spend several months at a time in space.
   8 ___ There are plans to build an observatory on Mars.

4 Match the questions (1–8) to the answers (a–h).
   1 ___ How do people know when they’ll be able to see the ISS?
   2 ___ What speed is the ISS travelling at?
   3 ___ Why is daily life difficult for people living in space?
   4 ___ What will happen to the crew if they don’t exercise?
   5 ___ How do the crew spend their time?
   6 ___ How does the water split into oxygen and hydrogen?
   7 ___ When was the last manned moon landing?
   8 ___ Why are there plans to build an observatory on the moon?

   a Doing experiments and looking after the space station.
   b The Apollo 17 mission in 1972.
   c By a process similar to photosynthesis.
   d From a website.
   e They won’t be able to stand up when they return home.
   f So that people can study the solar system.
   g Because of zero gravity.
   h At 32,410 km per hour.

5 Complete the summary with the words from the box.

electricity oxygen satellite crew
observatory research gravity muscles

The ISS is an enormous artificial 1 _________ that is orbiting Earth. Inside the space station, there is zero 2 _________, so everything floats around. Scientists on the station are doing 3 _________ into the effect of weightlessness on the human body. The 4 _________ have to exercise for two hours a day to stop their 5 _________ getting weak. The station gets its 6 _________ from solar power and water is used to obtain the 7 _________ they breathe. The information gained from the experiments on the ISS will help scientists to build an 8 _________ on the moon so that people can study the solar system.
Language check

6 Choose the correct alternative.
1 Some new astronauts are arriving/will arrive next month, so this crew can return to Earth.
2 We can’t see the space station today because it’ll/is going to rain later.
3 A When do you think you’ll build/’re building a base on the moon?
   B We aren’t sure, because it won’t/isn’t going to be cheap to build!
4 The new crew started yesterday and they don’t leave/aren’t going to leave until May.
5 He exercises/’s going to exercise every day when he goes to the space station next month.
6 The crew are meeting/will meet at 3 o’clock this afternoon to discuss the plans for their trip.

7 Complete the sentences using the correct future forms of the verbs.
1 Our match has been cancelled, so we ________ (not play) basketball tomorrow.
2 That’s a beautiful jacket. I’m sure your mum ________ (love) it.
3 My sister and her boyfriend are looking at rings. They ________ probably ________ (get) married next summer.
4 We’re very early. Our flight ________ (not take off) for another three hours.
5 Sarah’s brother has been horrible to her. She ________ (not speak) to him again.
6 Hurry up! Our English class ________ (start) in five minutes!
7 Jack hasn’t studied for the exam. He’s sure he ________ (not pass).
8 Ryan can’t come to our barbecue on Saturday because he ________ (run) a marathon.

Talk about it

8 In pairs. Imagine you’re going on a holiday in space. Ask and answer the questions.
- What are you going to take with you on the space ship?
- What will you miss most about being on Earth?
- What are you looking forward to/not looking forward to about your journey? Why?

Extension

9 In pairs. Look at photos A and B and answer the questions.

Photo A
1 Describe the photo.
2 What’s the problem with not doing exercise in space?
3 Do you do exercise? What do you do?
4 Why is it important to do exercise?

Photo B
1 Describe the photo.
2 What’s the problem with eating in space?
3 Do you eat healthy food? What do you eat?
4 Why is it important to eat healthy food?