

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES  
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

Thousands more free lessons  
from Sean's other websites

[www.freematerials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 6** – 16th September 2024

## Record number of people in space

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

### Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

It's becoming a little crowded in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the heavens. The record was broken after the three-person crew on board a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent mission were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the number of residents on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. The remaining four space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk last Thursday.

There is a point of contention regarding the recent record. That is over the definition of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military regard the boundary separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this interpretation, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and tied in January of this year. However, the conventional definition of the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line at an altitude of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for legal purposes to differentiate between what constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft.

Sources: <https://mashable.com/article/nasa-record-number-of-humans-in-space>  
<https://www.space.com/new-record-19-people-orbiting-earth-soyuz-iss>  
<https://www.iflscience.com/new-world-record-set-with-19-humans-in-earth-orbit-at-the-same-time-75926>

# WARM-UPS

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

crowded / space / record / the heavens / capsule / astronaut / mission / spacewalk / contention / definition / military / atmosphere / sea level / altitude / spacecraft

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

**3. SPACE RESEARCH:** Students A **strongly** believe space research is important; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. LIFE IN SPACE:** What are the good and bad things about living in these places? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good Things	Bad Things
Space		
The ISS		
The Moon		
Mars		
A voyage to another galaxy		
Pluto		

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

**6. CROWDED:** Rank these with your partner. Put the worst places to be crowded at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Space
- A swimming pool
- A shopping mall
- A beach
- A train
- A cable car
- A concert
- An English class

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. the heavens | a. An astronaut from Russia.   |
| 2. crew (noun) | b. A small container or space where people or things are kept.                       |
| 3. capsule     | c. A group of people working together, especially on a ship or plane.                |
| 4. docked      | d. A person who is not a soldier or part of the military.                            |
| 5. cosmonaut   | e. The sky or space above Earth.   |
| 6. mission     | f. When a vehicle, like a spaceship, joins with another vehicle or station in space. |
| 7. civilian    | g. A special job or task that people are trying to complete.                         |

## Paragraph 2

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 8. contention      | h. Establish something like a world record or a best time. |
| 9. boundary        | i. How high something is above the ground.                 |
| 10. interpretation | j. Something that is usual or traditional.                 |
| 11. set (verb)     | k. A line or limit that separates two areas.               |
| 12. conventional   | l. To be a part of something or make up a whole.           |
| 13. altitude       | m. A disagreement or argument about something.             |
| 14. constitute     | n. The way something is understood or explained.           |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

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

1. The article says space is becoming overcrowded. **T / F**
2. Four cosmonauts joined a Russian Soyuz capsule. **T / F**
3. There are now 13 people living on the ISS. **T / F**
4. The first ever civilian spacewalk took place last week. **T / F**
5. Everyone agrees on where the boundary between Earth and space is. **T / F**
6. NASA believes outer space begins 80 km above sea level. **T / F**
7. Twenty people were in space in 2023 according to NASA. **T / F**
8. An altitude line shows the difference between aircraft and spacecraft. **T / F**

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

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>crowded</b>        | a. private citizen |
| 2. <b>the heavens</b>    | b. congested       |
| 3. <b>docked</b>         | c. explanation     |
| 4. <b>mission</b>        | d. consider        |
| 5. <b>civilian</b>       | e. berthed         |
| 6. <b>contention</b>     | f. distinguish     |
| 7. <b>regard</b>         | g. space           |
| 8. <b>interpretation</b> | h. height          |
| 9. <b>altitude</b>       | i. journey         |
| 10. <b>differentiate</b> | j. disagreement    |

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

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. It's becoming a little                     | a. four space travellers  |
| 2. the three-person crew on                   | b. outer space starts     |
| 3. a Russian Soyuz capsule docked             | c. civilian spacewalk     |
| 4. The remaining                              | d. of the edge of space   |
| 5. a historic first ever                      | e. board                  |
| 6. There is a point                           | f. 100 km above sea level |
| 7. the definition of where                    | g. of contention          |
| 8. the boundary separating Earth's atmosphere | h. crowded in space       |
| 9. the conventional definition                | i. and outer space        |
| 10. at an altitude of                         | j. at the ISS             |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

It's becoming a little (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the heavens. The record was broken after the three-person (2) \_\_\_\_\_ on board a Russian Soyuz capsule (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent (4) \_\_\_\_\_ were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the number of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. The (7) \_\_\_\_\_ four space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a historic first ever (8) \_\_\_\_\_ spacewalk last Thursday.

*mission*  
*remaining*  
*crew*  
*residents*  
*crowded*  
*civilian*  
*docked*  
*record*

There is a point of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the recent record. That is over the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military regard the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this interpretation, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and (12) \_\_\_\_\_ in January of this year. However, the conventional definition of the (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line at an (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for (15) \_\_\_\_\_ purposes to differentiate between what (16) \_\_\_\_\_ an aircraft and a spacecraft.

*definition*  
*legal*  
*edge*  
*tied*  
*constitutes*  
*contention*  
*altitude*  
*boundary*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

- 1) There is now a record number of 19 people up \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. in the heathens
  - b. on the heavens
  - c. pin the heathens
  - d. in the heavens
- 2) The record was broken after the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. three-person crew
  - b. three-person clue
  - c. three-people crew
  - d. three-person accrue
- 3) They brought the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. number of residents
  - b. number of residence
  - c. numeral of residents
  - d. number of resident
- 4) The remaining four space travellers are part of SpaceX's \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Polaris Dawn missive
  - b. Polaris Dawn mission
  - c. Polaris Dawn missing
  - d. Polaris Dawn mash-up
- 5) That project saw a historic first \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. ever civil on spacewalk
  - b. ever civilly spacewalk
  - c. ever civilian spacewalk
  - d. ever syllable spacewalk
- 6) That is over the definition of where \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. other space starts
  - b. outer space starts
  - c. otter space starts
  - d. outer spaces starts
- 7) Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. above sea levelled
  - b. above sea levels
  - c. above see level
  - d. above sea level
- 8) the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. tied in January
  - b. tried in January
  - c. tiered in January
  - d. tired in January
- 9) The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line at an \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. attitude of 100 km
  - b. altitude of 100 km
  - c. altitude off 100 km
  - d. altitude of 100 mm
- 10) The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. four legal purposes
  - b. for legally purposes
  - c. for legal purposes
  - d. for legal porpoises

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

It's becoming a little (1) \_\_\_\_\_. There is now a record number of 19 people up (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The record was broken after the three-person crew on board a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the International Space Station (ISS). On (3) \_\_\_\_\_ were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a historic (6) \_\_\_\_\_ spacewalk last Thursday.

There is a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the recent record. That is over the definition of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military (8) \_\_\_\_\_ separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this interpretation, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and tied in January of this year. However, the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to differentiate between (12) \_\_\_\_\_ aircraft and a spacecraft.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

1. What docked at the International Space Station?
2. How many astronauts are there on the ISS?
3. How many taikonauts are on China's Tiangong Space Station?
4. What's the name of the company behind the Polaris Dawn mission?
5. What happened for the first time last Thursday?
6. Who thinks space starts at 80 km above sea level besides NASA?
7. How many people were in NASA's definition of space in May 2023?
8. What's the conventional definition of the edge of space called?
9. Where does the International Aeronautical Federation think space starts?
10. What differentiates between what is an aircraft and a spacecraft?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

- 1) What docked at the International Space Station?
  - a) a SpaceX spacecraft
  - b) a space shuttle
  - c) a Russian Soyuz capsule
  - d) a Chinese rocket
- 2) How many astronauts are there on the ISS?
  - a) 12
  - b) 11
  - c) 10
  - d) 9
- 3) How many taikonauts are on China's Tiangong Space Station?
  - a) 7
  - b) 6
  - c) 4
  - d) 3
- 4) What's the name of the company behind the Polaris Dawn mission?
  - a) Virgin Galactic
  - b) SpaceX
  - c) Amazon
  - d) NASA
- 5) What happened for the first time last Thursday?
  - a) taikonauts and astronauts shook hands
  - b) a Chinese spacecraft docked at the ISS
  - c) the first ever civilian spacewalk
  - d) 12 people did a spacewalk
- 6) Who thinks space starts at 80 km above sea level besides NASA?
  - a) the European Space Agency
  - b) the U.S. military
  - c) JAXA
  - d) Indian Space Research Organization
- 7) How many people were in NASA's definition of space in May 2023?
  - a) 17
  - b) 18
  - c) 19
  - d) 20
- 8) What's the conventional definition of the edge of space called?
  - a) the space line
  - b) the Karman Line
  - c) the stratosphere line
  - d) Bob
- 9) Where does the International Aeronautical Federation think space starts?
  - a) 100 km above sea level
  - b) 120 km above sea level
  - c) 160 km above sea level
  - d) 200 km above sea level
- 10) What differentiates between what is an aircraft and a spacecraft?
  - a) astrophysicists
  - b) science
  - c) gravity
  - d) the Karman Line

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

## **Role A – Space**

You think space is the worst place to be crowded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so bad when crowded. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these to be crowded (and why): a beach, a cable car or an English class.

## **Role B – A Beach**

You think a beach is the worst place to be crowded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so bad when crowded. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these to be crowded (and why): space, a cable car or an English class.

## **Role C – A Cable Car**

You think a cable car is the worst place to be crowded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so bad when crowded. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these to be crowded (and why): a beach, space or an English class.

## **Role D – An English Class**

You think an English class is the worst place to be crowded. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so bad when crowded. Also, tell the others which is the least worst of these to be crowded (and why): a beach, a cable car or space.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'astronaut' and 'space'.

<b>astronaut</b>	<b>space</b>
------------------	--------------

- 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>• little</li><li>• crew</li><li>• brought</li><li>• part</li><li>• four</li><li>• first</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• point</li><li>• regard</li><li>• set</li><li>• however</li><li>• 100</li><li>• legal</li></ul>
---	--

# ASTRONAUTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

Write five GOOD questions about astronauts 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.

# ASTRONAUTS 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 'astronaut'?
3. Would you like to go up into space?
4. Why do people want to go into space?
5. What do you think of day trips to space?
6. What would life be like on the International Space Station?
7. What's the difference between an astronaut and a cosmonaut?
8. Should Russia, the USA and China collaborate more in space?
9. What do you know about the space race?
10. What would it be like to do a spacewalk?

*Record number of people in space – 16th September 2024*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# ASTRONAUTS 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 'space'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the benefits to us of people going into space?
15. What would it be like to look at Earth from space?
16. What will journeys to space be like in 100 years from now?
17. What do you think of the possibility of space wars?
18. What would living on Mars be like?
19. Is there life on other planets?
20. What questions would you like to ask those in space?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2024

---

# 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/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

It's becoming a little (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The record was broken after the three-person crew on board a Russian Soyuz capsule (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent mission were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of residents on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ four space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ first ever civilian spacewalk last Thursday.

There is a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of contention regarding the recent record. That is over the definition of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the boundary separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this (9) \_\_\_\_\_, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and tied in January of this year. However, the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ definition of the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line (11) \_\_\_\_\_ an altitude of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for legal purposes to differentiate (12) \_\_\_\_\_ what constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft.

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

- |     |                 |                    |                   |                 |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) clouded     | (b) crowded        | (c) cloudy        | (d) cloudless   |
| 2.  | (a) netherworld | (b) purgatory      | (c) hell          | (d) heavens     |
| 3.  | (a) ducked      | (b) docked         | (c) decked        | (d) duked       |
| 4.  | (a) numeral     | (b) numeracy       | (c) number        | (d) numbered    |
| 5.  | (a) remaining   | (b) remainder      | (c) remains       | (d) remain      |
| 6.  | (a) historic    | (b) historian      | (c) histories     | (d) historical  |
| 7.  | (a) edge        | (b) sharpness      | (c) blunt         | (d) point       |
| 8.  | (a) regard      | (b) regale         | (c) disregard     | (d) degrade     |
| 9.  | (a) contraption | (b) interpretation | (c) extrapolation | (d) exploration |
| 10. | (a) convincing  | (b) convivial      | (c) conventional  | (d) conjectural |
| 11. | (a) to          | (b) of             | (c) at            | (d) on          |
| 12. | (a) that        | (b) between        | (c) among         | (d) along       |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. on board a Russian Soyuz eluaPCS
2. Russian scsuomaotn
3. the number of sedenistr on the ISS
4. The irnimeagn four space travellers
5. part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn oiismSN
6. a historic first ever civnilia spacewalk

## Paragraph 2

7. There is a point of innteootcn
8. the ubradyon separating Earth's atmosphere
9. With this atienrperttno
10. the vnetonaolcni definition of the edge of space
11. at an ltudeiat of 100 km above sea level
12. what titsntcuose an aircraft and a spacecraft

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

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

- ( ) heavens. The record was broken after the three-person crew on board a Russian Soyuz capsule
- ( ) the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this
- ( ) purposes to differentiate between what constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft.
- ( ) definition of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military regard the boundary separating Earth's
- ( ) for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and tied in January of this year. However, the conventional definition of
- ( ) atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this interpretation, the record
- ( ) docked at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent mission were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian
- ( ) of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk last Thursday.
- ( ) residents on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. They have three "taikonauts"
- ( ) working on the Tiangong Space Station. The remaining four space travellers are part
- ( **1** ) It's becoming a little crowded in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the
- ( ) line at an altitude of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for legal
- ( ) cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the number of
- ( ) There is a point of contention regarding the recent record. That is over the

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

1. a now 19 . of is There record number
2. Soyuz at A Russian docked ISS . the capsule
3. part also are of the record . Chinese astronauts
4. have three space taikonauts on their station . They
5. saw a spacewalk . That civilian first historic ever
6. contention record . regarding of point A the recent
7. The where space starts . of outer definition
8. separating and outer The atmosphere Earth's space . boundary
9. definition The edge conventional space . of the of
10. altitude level . At above an of sea 100 km

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

It's becoming a little *crowded / crowding* in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the *heaven / heavens*. The record was broken after the three-person crew *on / in* board a Russian Soyuz capsule *docked / ducked* at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent mission *was / were* NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the number of *residence / residents* on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are *addition / also* part of the record. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. The *dividing / remaining* four space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn *missive / mission*. That project saw a historic first ever *civilian / civil* spacewalk last Thursday.

There is a *point / edge* of contention regarding the recent record. That is over the definition of where *inner / outer* space starts. NASA and the U.S. military *degrade / regard* the boundary separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as *being / been* 80 km above sea level. With this *interpretation / extrapolation*, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and *tied / tried* in January of this year. However, the conventional definition of the *edge / hedge* of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line at an *attitude / altitude* of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for legal *porpoises / purposes* to differentiate between what *constitutes / detracts* an aircraft and a spacecraft.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

\_t's b\_c\_m\_ng \_ lttl\_ cr\_wd\_d \_n sp\_c\_. Th\_r\_ \_s  
n\_w \_ r\_c\_rd n\_mb\_r \_f 19 p\_\_pl\_ \_p \_n th\_  
h\_\_v\_ns. Th\_ r\_c\_rd w\_s br\_k\_n \_ft\_r th\_ thr\_\_-p\_rs\_n  
cr\_w \_n b\_\_rd \_ R\_ss\_\_n S\_y\_z c\_ps\_l\_ d\_ck\_d \_t th\_  
\_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l Sp\_c\_ St\_t\_\_n (\_SS). \_n th\_ r\_c\_nt  
m\_ss\_\_n w\_r\_ N\_S\_ \_str\_n\_\_t D\_n P\_tt\_t \_nd R\_ss\_\_n  
c\_sm\_n\_\_ts \_l\_x\_y \_vch\_n\_n \_nd \_v\_n V\_gn\_r. Th\_y  
br\_\_ght th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f r\_s\_d\_nts \_n th\_ \_SS t\_ 12.  
Ch\_n\_s\_ \_str\_n\_\_ts \_r\_ \_ls\_ p\_rt \_f th\_ r\_c\_rd. Th\_y  
h\_v\_ thr\_\_ "t\_\_k\_n\_\_ts" w\_rk\_ng \_n th\_ T\_\_ng\_ng  
Sp\_c\_ St\_t\_\_n. Th\_ r\_m\_\_ng f\_\_r sp\_c\_ tr\_v\_ll\_rs  
\_r\_ p\_rt \_f Sp\_c\_X's P\_l\_r\_s D\_wn m\_ss\_\_n. Th\_t  
pr\_j\_ct s\_w \_ h\_st\_r\_c f\_rst \_v\_r c\_v\_l\_\_n sp\_c\_w\_lk  
l\_st Th\_rsd\_y.

Th\_r\_ \_s \_ p\_\_nt \_f c\_nt\_nt\_\_n r\_g\_rd\_ng th\_ r\_c\_nt  
r\_c\_rd. Th\_t \_s \_v\_r th\_ d\_f\_n\_t\_\_n \_f wh\_r\_ \_\_tr  
sp\_c\_ st\_rts. N\_S\_ \_nd th\_ \_S. m\_l\_t\_ry r\_g\_rd th\_  
b\_\_nd\_ry s\_p\_r\_t\_ng \_\_rth's \_tm\_sph\_r\_ \_nd \_\_tr  
sp\_c\_ \_s b\_\_ng 80 km \_b\_v\_ s\_\_ l\_v\_l. W\_th th\_s  
\_nt\_rpr\_t\_\_n, th\_ r\_c\_rd f\_r h\_m\_ns \_n sp\_c\_ \_s 20,  
s\_t \_n M\_y 2023 \_nd t\_\_d \_n J\_n\_\_ry \_f th\_s y\_\_r.  
H\_w\_v\_r, th\_ c\_nv\_nt\_\_n\_l d\_f\_n\_t\_\_n \_f th\_ \_dg\_ \_f  
sp\_c\_ \_s c\_ll\_d th\_ K\_rm\_n L\_n\_. Th\_ \_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l  
\_\_r\_n\_\_t\_c\_l F\_d\_r\_t\_\_n p\_ts th\_s l\_n\_ \_t \_n \_lt\_t\_d\_  
\_f 100 km \_b\_v\_ s\_\_ l\_v\_l. Th\_ n\_w r\_c\_rd \_s\_s th\_s  
d\_f\_n\_t\_\_n. Th\_ K\_rm\_n L\_n\_ \_s \_s\_d f\_r l\_g\_l  
p\_rp\_s\_s t\_ d\_ff\_r\_nt\_\_t\_ b\_tw\_\_n wh\_t c\_nst\_t\_t\_s \_n  
\_\_rcr\_ft \_nd \_ sp\_c\_cr\_ft.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

its becoming a little crowded in space there is now a record number of 19 people up in the heavens the record was broken after the threeperson crew on board a russian soyuz capsule docked at the international space station iss on the recent mission were nasa astronaut don pettit and russian cosmonauts alexey ovchinin and ivan vagner they brought the number of residents on the iss to 12 chinese astronauts are also part of the record they have three taikonauts working on the tiangong space station the remaining four space travellers are part of spacexs polaris dawn mission that project saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk last thursday

there is a point of contention regarding the recent record that is over the definition of where outer space starts nasa and the us military regard the boundary separating earths atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level with this interpretation the record for humans in space is 20 set in may 2023 and tied in january of this year however the conventional definition of the edge of space is called the karman line the international aeronautical federation puts this line at an altitude of 100 km above sea level the new record uses this definition the karman line is used for legal purposes to differentiate between what constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts.html>

It's becoming a little crowded in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the heavens. The record was broken after the three-person crew won board a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent mission were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They bring the number of residents on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. The remaining four space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk last Thursday. There is a point of contention regarding the recent record. That is over the definition of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military regard the boundary separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this interpretation, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and tied in January of this year. However, the conventional definition of the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line at an altitude of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for legal purposes to differentiate between what constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft.







# 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. ASTRONAUTS:** Make a poster about astronauts. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. SPACE EXPLORATION:** Write a magazine article about spending more money on space exploration. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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 astronauts. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. 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. c    3. b    4. f    5. a    6. g    7. d  
8. m    9. k    10. n    11. h    12. j    13. i    14. l

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 F    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 T    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. b	2. g	3. e	4. i	5. a
6. j	7. d	8. c	9. h	10. f

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A Russian Soyuz capsule
2. Twelve
3. Three
4. SpaceX
5. The first ever civilian spacewalk
6. The U.S. military
7. Twenty
8. The Karman Line
9. 100 km above sea level
10. The Karman Line

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. There is now a record number of 19.
2. A Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the ISS.
3. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record.
4. They have three taikonauts on their space station.
5. That saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk.
6. A point of contention regarding the recent record.
7. The definition of where outer space starts.
8. The boundary separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space.
9. The conventional definition of the edge of space.
10. At an altitude of 100 km above sea level.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. d    4. b    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. a    10. d

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)