

## Journey into space

Do you know the English names of the planets?  
Do you know anything about them?

The International Space Station (ISS) is a research centre in space. One day, it might be the starting point for journeys to nearby planets like Mars. The first space stations, for example Russia's Salyuts and the USA's Skylab, were fully constructed on Earth and then launched into space. But the International Space Station was sent into space in sections. The sections were joined together in orbit, hundreds of kilometres above the Earth's surface.

The ISS is as big as a football pitch. It is controlled by 52 computers. It has two bathrooms, a gym, and a huge 360° window with an amazing view. The space station travels at about 25,000 km/h, 350 km above our heads. It goes round the Earth fifteen times a day. You can often see the ISS. It is like a bright star moving across the night sky. Several 'space tourists' have been to the ISS. They have to train for several months before the trip, and it costs millions of dollars.



The astronauts who work on the ISS usually spend about six months there. During this time, they do important scientific research. They do experiments in biology, physics, astronomy and meteorology. They have developed technology to make clean drinking water for the ISS, and this technology is useful for people in many parts of the world. Some experiments are helping to improve human health, for example, developing vaccines to prevent serious diseases.

Daily routines like washing, cleaning your teeth, and going to the toilet aren't easy in outer space, because there is almost no gravity. Getting exercise is an important part of an astronaut's daily routine, and they usually exercise for two hours a day. Food is very different in space because there are no fridges. And you cannot put salt and pepper on your food because it would float around the space station.

During the six months that astronauts spend on the ISS, they grow about 3% taller. Because there is very little gravity, their spine expands. But, once they return to Earth, their height returns to normal after a few months.



### 1. Find the words in the text with this meaning. V besedilu poišči besede z naslednjimi pomeni:

- lansiranje - \_\_\_\_\_
- del - \_\_\_\_\_
- igrišče - \_\_\_\_\_
- poizkusi - \_\_\_\_\_
- meteorologija - \_\_\_\_\_
- cepivo - \_\_\_\_\_
- bolezen - \_\_\_\_\_
- lebdeti - \_\_\_\_\_
- težnost - \_\_\_\_\_
- hrbtenica - \_\_\_\_\_
- razširiti se - \_\_\_\_\_

2. Mark the statements T or F. Correct the false ones. Označi ali so trditve resnične ali napačne. Napačne popravi.

- 1 The International Space Station is the first space station.
- 2 Scientists launched the different parts of the ISS separately.
- 3 It is always in the same place and doesn't move in the sky.
- 4 Some of the scientists on the ISS study the Earth's weather.
- 5 It is dangerous to drink the water on the ISS.
- 6 When there is no gravity, it is more difficult to do ordinary things.
- 7 People on the ISS can keep their food in a fridge.
- 8 Astronauts on the ISS get taller because their spine gets longer.

3. Use the words from the text (in the box) and complete the sentences. Povedi dopolni z besedami iz okvirčka.

float • disease • construct • expand • launch •  
in orbit • gravity • prevent

- 1 When you throw something up in the air, it comes down again because of the Earth's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Metals \_\_\_\_\_ when they get hot.
- 3 They're starting to \_\_\_\_\_ a new bridge across the river. The work will probably take about a month to complete.
- 4 Malaria isn't as common now as it was in the past, but it's still a very dangerous \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Over 1,000 working satellites are \_\_\_\_\_ round the Earth at the moment.
- 6 The boat won't \_\_\_\_\_ with that big hole in its side. It'll sink as soon as we put it in the water.
- 7 The Council is planning to put up traffic lights on this corner. I'm sure that will help to \_\_\_\_\_ traffic accidents.
- 8 They tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the rocket in October 2014, but it exploded before it left the ground.