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Mission to Mars by 2023

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

6th June, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

A company from Holland has announced plans to send people to Mars by 2023. The new project is called Mars One and is the brainchild of Dutch businessman Bas Lansdorp. He plans to send four astronauts on the greatest journey ever made by humans in 11 years time. Those who make the journey will never return to Earth. The scariest part of their contract will be they must stay on Mars forever and help build the complex that other space travellers will stay on.

Mr Lansdorp is the former CEO of an alternative energy company. He said step one of his plan is to send a communications satellite to Mars in 2016. Two years later, he'll land a robot on wheels on the red planet to look for a good place to build the Martian accommodation. In 2020, all of the materials needed for the complex will make its way to Mars, including equipment to make water and oxygen. Lansdorp said the four astronauts will head off into space on September 14, 2022.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. announced plans to | a. forever |
| 2. the greatest journey ever | b. to Earth |
| 3. never return | c. travellers |
| 4. The scariest part | d. send people to Mars |
| 5. they must stay on Mars | e. of their contract |
| 6. space | f. made |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. former | a. satellite to Mars |
| 2. alternative | b. space |
| 3. send a communications | c. make water |
| 4. build the Martian | d. CEO |
| 5. equipment to | e. energy |
| 6. head off into | f. accommodation |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

A company from Holland has announced _____ people to Mars by 2023. The new project is called Mars One and _____ Dutch businessman Bas Lansdorp. He plans to send four astronauts on _____ ever made by humans in 11 years time. Those who make the journey will _____ Earth. The scariest part of their contract will be they must stay on Mars forever _____ complex that other space _____ on.

Mr Lansdorp _____ of an alternative energy company. He said _____ plan is to send a communications satellite to Mars in 2016. Two years later, he'll _____ wheels on the red planet to look for a good _____ Martian accommodation. In 2020, all of the materials needed _____ will make its way to Mars, including equipment to make water and oxygen. Lansdorp said the four astronauts _____ space on September 14, 2022.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

A company from Holland has (1) _____ plans to send people to Mars by 2023. The new project is called Mars One and is the (2) _____ of Dutch businessman Bas Lansdorp. He plans to send four astronauts on the greatest journey ever (3) _____ by humans in 11 years time. Those who make the journey will never (4) _____ to Earth. The scariest part of their contract will be they must stay on Mars (5) _____ and help build the complex that other space (6) _____ will stay on.

Mr Lansdorp is the (7) _____ CEO of an alternative energy company. He said (8) _____ one of his plan is to send a communications satellite to Mars in 2016. Two years later, he'll (9) _____ a robot on wheels on the red planet to look for a good place to (10) _____ the Martian accommodation. In 2020, all of the materials (11) _____ for the complex will make its way to Mars, including equipment to make water and oxygen. Lansdorp said the four astronauts will (12) _____ off into space on September 14, 2022.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | (a) announce | (b) announced | (c) announcement |
| 2. | (a) brainchild | (b) grandchild | (c) youngest child |
| 3. | (a) used | (b) made | (c) written |
| 4. | (a) redo | (b) remake | (c) return |
| 5. | (a) forever | (b) timeless | (c) infinity |
| 6. | (a) backpackers | (b) passengers | (c) travellers |
| 7. | (a) former | (b) farmer | (c) firmer |
| 8. | (a) ladder | (b) stair | (c) step |
| 9. | (a) land | (b) air | (c) sea |
| 10. | (a) arrive | (b) tape | (c) build |
| 11. | (a) needs | (b) needed | (c) needy |
| 12. | (a) body | (b) head | (c) foot |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. unenoadcn plans
2. The new jpeocrt
3. the greatest ejonryu ever
4. never tenrru to Earth
5. help build the mpelcox
6. space esllvterar

Paragraph 2

7. rrmfeo CEO
8. tvaalnieret energy
9. communications leseltait
10. the red naeptl
11. ptemuqien to make water
12. four nausstarto

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1206/120606-mars.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () water and oxygen. Lansdorp said the four astronauts will head off into space on September 14, 2022.
- () in 11 years time. Those who make the journey will never return
- () place to build the Martian accommodation. In 2020, all of the materials needed for
- () later, he'll land a robot on wheels on the red planet to look for a good
- () the complex will make its way to Mars, including equipment to make
- (**1**) A company from Holland has announced plans to send people to Mars by 2023. The new project is
- () Mr Lansdorp is the former CEO of an alternative energy company. He said step
- () one of his plan is to send a communications satellite to Mars in 2016. Two years
- () send four astronauts on the greatest journey ever made by humans
- () forever and help build the complex that other space travellers will stay on.
- () to Earth. The scariest part of their contract will be they must stay on Mars
- () called Mars One and is the brainchild of Dutch businessman Bas Lansdorp. He plans to

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. Mars to by send 2023 people to Plans.

2. is project new The One Mars called.

3. The humans by made ever journey greatest.

4. will who never make return the journey Those.

5. the Stay forever build Mars help complex on and.

6. of an The alternative former energy CEO company.

7. Send Mars a in communications 2016 satellite to.

8. red planet He'll land a robot on wheels on the.

9. and to water oxygen Equipment make.

10. will head The off four into astronauts space.

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. _____

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. MARS: Search the Internet and find more information about Mars. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Mars. Include an imaginary interview with a Martian. 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 a Mars expert. Ask him/her three questions about the red planet. Give him/her three of your opinions on living on it. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.