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Level 1

Over 18,300 apply for 14 astronaut jobs

22nd February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-1.html>

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-1.html>

A record number of people applied to be a NASA astronaut. Over 18,300 people applied for 14 jobs. This is a record. NASA will now spend 18 months choosing the best people. It will announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. NASA said: "It's [great] to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity this is to be part of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting the men and women talented enough to rise to the top."

Many people want to work on the space program. NASA said: "So many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to...our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview and then get two years of training. They will learn things such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft. They will also learn Russian. They could go to the International Space Station or work for space tourism companies, such as SpaceX.

Sources: <https://thespacereporter.com/2016/02/nasa-receives-record-number-astronaut-applications/>
<http://www.space.com/31987-nasa-astronaut-applications-smash-record.html>
<http://www.themonitordaily.com/nasa-astronaut-application-pool-reached-18300-record/210868/>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A record number | a. record |
| 2. be a NASA | b. to the top |
| 3. Over 18,300 people applied | c. the best people |
| 4. This is a | d. for 14 jobs |
| 5. spend 18 months choosing | e. of people applied |
| 6. It will announce the successful | f. this is |
| 7. recognize what a great opportunity | g. astronaut |
| 8. talented enough to rise | h. applicants |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Many people want | a. Station |
| 2. the space | b. training |
| 3. diverse | c. such as SpaceX |
| 4. our journey | d. backgrounds |
| 5. get two years of | e. to work |
| 6. They will learn things such | f. to Mars |
| 7. the International Space | g. program |
| 8. space tourism companies, | h. as spacewalking |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-1.html>

A record number (1) _____ to be a NASA astronaut. (2) _____ people applied for 14 jobs. This is a record. NASA (3) _____ 18 months choosing the best people. It will announce the successful applicants in (4) _____ 2017. NASA said: "It's [great] to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity this (5) _____ NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting the men and women talented enough to (6) _____."

Many people (7) _____ the space program. NASA said: "So many Americans from (8) _____ want to personally (9) _____ journey to Mars." The top applicants will have (10) _____ then get two years of training. They will learn (11) _____ spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft. They will also learn Russian. They could go to the International Space Station or (12) _____ tourism companies, such as SpaceX.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-1.html>

Write about **astronauts** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

Horizontal lines for writing.