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Level 5 – 16th September 2024

Record number of people in space

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts-5.html>

It's becoming crowded in space. There is a record number of 19 people in the heavens. The record was broken after a three-person crew on a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the ISS. On the recent mission were a NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts. They brought the number of residents on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. There are three "taikonauts" on the Tiangong Space Station. The remaining four space travellers are part of SpaceX's latest mission. That project saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk.

There is a point of contention over the record. NASA and the U.S. military regard the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this measure, the record for humans in space was set at 20 in May 2023. However, the conventional definition of the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this at an altitude of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman line is used 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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. 19 people in | a. Russian cosmonauts |
| 2. a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at | b. spacewalk |
| 3. a NASA astronaut and two | c. part of the record |
| 4. the number of residents | d. the ISS |
| 5. Chinese astronauts are also | e. four space travellers |
| 6. The remaining | f. the heavens |
| 7. part of SpaceX's | g. on the ISS |
| 8. a historic first ever civilian | h. latest mission |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. There is a point | a. edge of space |
| 2. the boundary between Earth's atmosphere | b. this definition |
| 3. With this | c. was set at 20 |
| 4. the record for humans in space | d. of contention |
| 5. the conventional definition of the | e. and a spacecraft |
| 6. at an altitude of 100 km | f. measure |
| 7. The new record uses | g. and outer space |
| 8. what constitutes an aircraft | h. above sea level |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts-5.html>

It's becoming (1) _____. There is a record number of 19 people (2) _____. The record was broken after a three-person crew on a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the ISS. On (3) _____ were a NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts. They brought the (4) _____ on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. There are three "taikonauts" on the Tiangong Space Station. (5) _____ space travellers are part of SpaceX's latest mission. That project saw a historic (6) _____ spacewalk.

There is a (7) _____ over the record. NASA and the U.S. military (8) _____ between Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this measure, the record for humans in space was set at 20 in May 2023. However, (9) _____ of the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this (10) _____ of 100 km above sea level. The new record (11) _____. The Karman line is used to (12) _____ constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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ASTRONAUTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts-4.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.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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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) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2409/240916-astronauts-cosmonauts-taikonauts-5.html>

Write about **astronauts** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
