

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 2

Over 18,300 apply for 14 astronaut jobs

22nd February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-2.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Discussion	6
Writing	7

Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

Google +



<https://plus.google.com/+SeanBanville>

THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-2.html>

A record number of people applied to be part of NASA's astronaut training program. NASA received over 18,300 applications for 14 jobs. This is a record. NASA's human resources officials will now spend 18 months looking at and selecting the best people. It will announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. Brian Kelly of 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."

There is a great desire to work on America's space program. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "So many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of training. They will learn things such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating spacecraft systems. They will also learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for tourists, 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/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. A record number | a. forward to meeting the men |
| 2. be part of NASA's astronaut | b. of 2017 |
| 3. NASA's human | c. the top |
| 4. in the middle | d. resources officials |
| 5. what a great | e. of people |
| 6. be part of NASA's exciting | f. training program |
| 7. I look | g. mission |
| 8. talented enough to rise to | h. opportunity |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. America's space | a. years of training |
| 2. So many Americans from diverse | b. an interview |
| 3. our journey | c. program |
| 4. The top applicants will have | d. International Space Station |
| 5. chosen candidates will then get two | e. to Mars |
| 6. They will learn things such | f. for tourists |
| 7. they could go to the | g. backgrounds |
| 8. work for companies making spacecraft | h. as spacewalking |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-2.html>

A record number of people applied (1) _____ NASA's astronaut training program. NASA received over 18,300 applications for 14 jobs. (2) _____. NASA's human resources officials will now spend 18 months looking at and selecting (3) _____. It will announce the successful applicants (4) _____ 2017. Brian Kelly of NASA said: "It's [great] to know so many people recognize what a great opportunity (5) _____ of NASA's exciting mission. I look forward to meeting the men and women (6) _____ rise to the top."

There (7) _____ to work on America's space program. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "So many Americans from (8) _____ want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The (9) _____ will have an interview in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will (10) _____ of training. They will learn things such as spacewalking, teamwork and operating (11) _____. They will also learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for (12) _____ SpaceX.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160222-astronauts-2.html>

A record number of people applied to be part of NASA's astronaut training program. NASA received over 18,300 applications for 14 jobs. This is a record. NASA's human resources officials will now spend 18 months looking at and selecting the best people. It will announce the successful applicants in the middle of 2017. Brian Kelly of 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." There is a great desire to work on America's space program. NASA's Charlie Bolden said: "So many Americans from diverse backgrounds want to personally contribute to blazing the trail on our journey to Mars." The top applicants will have an interview in Houston, Texas. The chosen candidates will then get two years of training. They will learn things such as space walking, teamwork and operating spacecraft systems. They will also learn Russian. After that, they could go to the International Space Station or work for companies making spacecraft for tourists, such as SpaceX.

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)

Over 18,300 apply for 14 astronaut jobs – 22nd February, 2016
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

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-2.html>

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