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Level 6

International Space Station gets air-filled extension

31st May, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully inflated a new, experimental room for crew members to use in space. The inflatable pod is now an extension to the International Space Station (ISS). It is roughly four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days to fully inflate. ISS crew members now have to wait a week before entering it. NASA engineers must first ensure it is airtight. The blow-up compartment is part of a test on the feasibility of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, and of orbiting space hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the demo capsule. It hopes this initial test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station.

The inflatable is the world's first blow-up capsule for astronauts, cosmonauts and other space travellers. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM for short. It is named after Bigelow Aerospace, the company that designed and built it. Company founder Robert Bigelow has spent many years investing in and building hotels. He is currently working on a project to build two private space stations that could serve as hotels in the heavens by the end of the decade. He said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism in the future. The pods are small enough to transport as compressed, airless units, but big enough and sturdy enough to live in, once filled with air.

Sources: <http://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0002980277>
<http://www.gizmag.com/beam-habitat-second-attempt-iss/43573/>
<http://www.dw.com/en/nasa-inflates-space-pod-for-iss-astronauts/a-19291301>

WARM-UPS

1. SPACE TOURISM: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about space tourism. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

NASA / experimental / crew / members / roughly / engineers / feasibility / capsule / inflatable / astronauts / travellers / designed / investing / private / decade / sturdy

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SPACE RESEARCH: Students A **strongly** believe that money should be spent on health and education instead of space research; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ISS: What do you think life is like on the ISS? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good things	Bad things
Sleep		
Other people		
Food		
Exercise		
Showering		
Hobbies		

5. SPACE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "space". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SPACE HOTEL: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about a space hotel at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- the view
- weightlessness
- the journey there
- space food
- no immigration
- space souvenirs
- saying you've been into space
- silence

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The new inflatable room on the ISS is for the crew to use. **T / F**
- b. The room is 13.2 metres in length. **T / F**
- c. It took three hours for engineers to inflate the room. **T / F**
- d. NASA said it would not be able to build any bigger rooms. **T / F**
- e. The shortened name of the inflatable room is 'BEAM'. **T / F**
- f. A company may have hotels in space by 2020. **T / F**
- g. A company boss said inflatables would play a small part in space travel. **T / F**
- h. The inflatable pods are strong enough for people to live in them. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. inflated | a. approximately |
| 2. extension | b. constructed |
| 3. roughly | c. flattened |
| 4. airtight | d. add-on |
| 5. initial | e. presently |
| 6. built | f. first |
| 7. currently | g. visualises |
| 8. envisions | h. blown up |
| 9. compressed | i. strong |
| 10. sturdy | j. sealed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. crew | a. enough to live in |
| 2. It is roughly | b. feasibility |
| 3. It took three days to fully | c. other space travellers |
| 4. engineers must first ensure | d. four metres long |
| 5. part of a test on the | e. the heavens |
| 6. The inflatable is the world's first blow- | f. on a project |
| 7. astronauts, cosmonauts and | g. members |
| 8. He is currently working | h. up capsule |
| 9. serve as hotels in | i. it is airtight |
| 10. big enough and sturdy | j. inflate |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has (1) _____ inflated a new, experimental room for crew members to use in space. The inflatable pod is now an (2) _____ to the International Space Station (ISS). It is (3) _____ four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days to fully (4) _____. ISS crew members now have to wait a week before entering it. NASA engineers must first ensure it is (5) _____. The blow-up compartment is part of a test on the (6) _____ of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, and of (7) _____ space hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the demo capsule. It hopes this (8) _____ test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station.

roughly
feasibility
successfully
airtight
initial
extension
orbiting
inflate

The inflatable is the world's first blow-up (9) _____ for astronauts, cosmonauts and other space travellers. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM for (10) _____. It is named after Bigelow Aerospace, the company that designed and built it. Company (11) _____ Robert Bigelow has spent many years investing in and building hotels. He is (12) _____ working on a project to build two private space stations that could serve as hotels in the (13) _____ by the end of the (14) _____. He said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism in the future. The pods are small enough to transport as (15) _____, airless units, but big enough and (16) _____ enough to live in, once filled with air.

founder
heavens
sturdy
short
compressed
currently
capsule
decade

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

- 1) inflated a new, experimental room for crew members _____
 - a. to use on space
 - b. to use in space
 - c. to use at space
 - d. to use to space
- 2) It is roughly four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days _____
 - a. for fully inflate
 - b. to filling inflate
 - c. to fully inflate
 - d. to filled inflate
- 3) ISS crew members now have to wait a week _____
 - a. then entering it
 - b. before entering it
 - c. afore entering it
 - d. pre entering it
- 4) The blow-up compartment is part of a test _____
 - a. on the feasibility
 - b. in a feasibility
 - c. on the feast ability
 - d. on the freeze ability
- 5) NASA paid \$17.8 million for _____
 - a. the dynamo capsule
 - b. the demon capsule
 - c. the de-mob capsule
 - d. the demo capsule
- 6) the world's first blow-up capsule for astronauts, cosmonauts and _____
 - a. another space travellers
 - b. other space travels
 - c. other space revelers
 - d. other space travellers
- 7) Bigelow has spent many years investing _____ hotels
 - a. in and building
 - b. inn and building
 - c. in a building
 - d. inner building
- 8) space stations that could serve as hotels in the heavens by the end _____
 - a. of the decadence
 - b. of the decades
 - c. of the decade
 - d. of the arcade
- 9) He said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism _____
 - a. on the future
 - b. in the futures
 - c. in the futurity
 - d. in the future
- 10) but big enough and sturdy enough to live in, once _____
 - a. filtered with there
 - b. filled with air
 - c. filled within air
 - d. filtered with air

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully (1) _____, experimental room for crew members to use in space. The inflatable pod is (2) _____ to the International Space Station (ISS). It is roughly four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days (3) _____. ISS crew members now have to wait a week before entering it. NASA engineers must first ensure (4) _____. The blow-up compartment is part of a test on the feasibility of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, (5) _____ space hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the demo capsule. It hopes this (6) _____ to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station.

The inflatable is the world's first blow-up (7) _____, cosmonauts and other space travellers. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM for short. (8) _____ Bigelow Aerospace, the company that designed and built it. Company founder Robert Bigelow has spent many years (9) _____ building hotels. He is currently working on (10) _____ two private space stations that could serve as hotels in the heavens by the end of the decade. He said he envisions inflatables (11) _____ space travel and tourism in the future. The pods are small enough to transport as compressed, airless units, but big enough and (12) _____ live in, once filled with air.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

1. Which organisation successfully inflated the ISS extension?
2. How wide is the inflated pod?
3. How long do crew members have to wait before entering the pod?
4. What do crew members have to check for before entering the pod?
5. How much did NASA pay for the pod?
6. How many inflatable pods were in space before this one?
7. What is the shortened name of the pod?
8. When could space hotels be in space?
9. What did Robert Bigelow say the inflatables would be a big part of?
10. What are the inflatable pods sturdy enough to do?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

- 1) Which organisation successfully inflated the ISS extension?
 - a) UNICEF
 - b) NASA
 - c) NATO
 - d) NASCAR
- 2) How wide is the inflated pod?
 - a) 23 metres
 - b) 2.3 metres
 - c) 32 metres
 - d) 3.2 metres
- 3) How long do crew members have to wait before entering the pod?
 - a) 36 hours
 - b) 3 days
 - c) a week
 - d) several hours
- 4) What do crew members have to check for before entering the pod?
 - a) to see if it is airtight
 - b) damage
 - c) space debris
 - d) viruses
- 5) How much did NASA pay for the pod?
 - a) \$178 million
 - b) \$17.8 million
 - c) \$187 million
 - d) \$18.7 million
- 6) How many inflatable pods were in space before this one?
 - a) 0
 - b) 3
 - c) 11
 - d) 452
- 7) What is the shortened name of the pod?
 - a) ISSY
 - b) BOB
 - c) BEAM
 - d) PODDY
- 8) When could space hotels be in space?
 - a) by 2020
 - b) by 2025
 - c) by 2030
 - d) by 2050
- 9) What did Robert Bigelow say the inflatables would be a big part of?
 - a) NASA
 - b) theme parks
 - c) Disney
 - d) the future of space travel
- 10) What are the inflatable pods sturdy enough to do?
 - a) cut with a knife
 - b) house 1,000 people
 - c) live in
 - d) survive a meteor shower

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

Role A – The view

You think the view is the best thing about staying at a space hotel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): weightlessness, the journey there or souvenirs.

Role B – Weightlessness

You think weightlessness is the best thing about staying at a space hotel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the view, the journey there or souvenirs.

Role C – The journey there

You think the journey there is the best thing about staying at a space hotel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): weightlessness, the view or souvenirs.

Role D – Souvenirs

You think souvenirs are the best things about staying at a space hotel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): weightlessness, the journey there or the view.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'space' and 'station'.

space	station
--------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use• roughly• wait• test• orbiting• bigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first• named• spent• project• future• filled
---	---

SPACE TOURISM SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

Write five GOOD questions about space tourism 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.

SPACE TOURISM DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'space'?
3. What do you know about NASA?
4. What do you think about the inflatable extension?
5. What could the new inflatable pod be used for?
6. What do you think it's like to work on the ISS?
7. Would you like to stay in an inflatable space hotel?
8. Which is better – a hotel on the Moon or an orbiting hotel?
9. What dangers could there be with the inflatable capsule?
10. Would you be a good astronaut? Why?

International Space Station gets air-filled extension – 31st May, 2016
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SPACE TOURISM DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What is the difference between astronauts and cosmonauts?
13. What do you know about the ISS?
14. What are the dangers of working in space?
15. What do you think of space tourism?
16. What other uses could there be for inflatable rooms in space?
17. Would you prefer to stay in a hotel in space or on Earth? Why?
18. What will space tourism look like in the future?
19. What are the pros and cons of living in space?
20. What questions would you like to ask the astronauts?

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. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully inflated a new, experimental room for crew members to use (1) ____ space. The inflatable pod is now an extension to the International Space Station (ISS). It is (2) ____ four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days to (3) ____ inflate. ISS crew members now have to wait a week before entering it. NASA engineers must first ensure it is (4) _____. The blow-up compartment is part of a test on the (5) ____ of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, and of orbiting space hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the (6) ____ capsule. It hopes this initial test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station.

The inflatable is the world's first blow-up capsule for astronauts, cosmonauts and other space (7) _____. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM for (8) _____. It is named after Bigelow Aerospace, the company that designed and built it. Company founder Robert Bigelow has spent many years investing (9) _____ and building hotels. He is currently working on a project to build two private space stations that could serve (10) _____ hotels in the heavens by the end of the decade. He said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism in the future. The pods are small enough to transport as (11) _____, airless units, but big enough and sturdy enough to live in, (12) _____ filled with air.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) to | (d) on |
| 2. | (a) roughs | (b) roughage | (c) rough | (d) roughly |
| 3. | (a) filled | (b) fully | (c) filling | (d) filler |
| 4. | (a) tighten | (b) uptight | (c) airtight | (d) tights |
| 5. | (a) feasibility | (b) frailty | (c) faculty | (d) facility |
| 6. | (a) demo | (b) repo | (c) ammo | (d) polo |
| 7. | (a) trapezes | (b) revelers | (c) travails | (d) travellers |
| 8. | (a) short | (b) small | (c) tiny | (d) length |
| 9. | (a) to | (b) in | (c) of | (d) at |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) to | (c) as | (d) by |
| 11. | (a) compressing | (b) compress | (c) compressed | (d) compresses |
| 12. | (a) one-time | (b) once | (c) upon | (d) afore |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

Paragraph 1

1. National earnsucAtoi and Space Administration (NASA)
2. engineers must first ensure it is iaightrt
3. a test on the bafiilesity
4. ogitnrb space hotels
5. \$17.8 million for the demo lacseup
6. bigger tflibaelan rooms at the space station

Paragraph 2

7. astronauts, otoscunams and other space travellers
8. He is tncryurel working on a project
9. serve as hotels in the snvehae
10. he snnsoivie inflatables as a big part
11. transport as epcossredm, airless units
12. rudsty enough to live in

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () in the future. The pods are small enough to transport as compressed, airless units,
- () four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days to fully inflate. ISS crew members now have to wait a
- () building hotels. He is currently working on a project to build two private space stations that could serve as hotels in the
- () members to use in space. The inflatable pod is now an extension to the International Space Station (ISS). It is roughly
- () hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the demo capsule. It hopes
- () company that designed and built it. Company founder Robert Bigelow has spent many years investing in and
- () The inflatable is the world's first blow-up capsule for astronauts, cosmonauts and other space
- (**1**) America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully inflated a new, experimental room for crew
- () week before entering it. NASA engineers must first ensure it is airtight. The blow-up compartment is part of a test
- () heavens by the end of the decade. He said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism
- () on the feasibility of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, and of orbiting space
- () travellers. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM for short. It is named after Bigelow Aerospace, the
- () this initial test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station.
- () but big enough and sturdy enough to live in, once filled with air.

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

1. new A space in use to members crew for room experimental , .
2. must engineers NASA airtight is it ensure first .
3. accommodation inflatable of feasibility the on test A .
4. million for the demo capsule NASA paid \$17 .8
5. space inflatable station rooms Lead at to the bigger .
6. inflatable The astronauts for capsule up - blow first world's the is .
7. that as the stations serve in Space could hotels heavens .
8. He travel space of part big a as inflatables envisions he said .
9. , to airless transport units as Small compressed enough .
10. , enough Big once to enough filled live and with in sturdy air .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully *inflation / inflated* a new, experimental room for *crew / clue* members to *use / used* in space. The inflatable pod is now an *extended / extension* to the International Space Station (ISS). It is *roughly / rough* four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days to fully inflate. ISS crew members now have to wait a week *then / before* entering it. NASA engineers must first *ensure / in case* it is airtight. The blow-up compartment is part of a test on the *feasibility / feasible* of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, and of orbiting *spaced / space* hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the demo capsule. It hopes this *initial / initially* test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station.

The inflatable is the world's first *blew up / blow-up* capsule for astronauts, cosmonauts and *another / other* space travellers. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM *for / four* short. It is named after Bigelow Aerospace, the company that designed and *build / built* it. Company founder Robert Bigelow has spent *many / much* years investing in and building hotels. He is *present / currently* working on a project to build two private space stations that could *serve / save* as hotels in the heavens by the end of the decade. He said he *visions / envisions* inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism *in / on* the future. The pods are small enough to transport as compressed, airless units, but big enough and *study / sturdy* enough to live in, once filled with air.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

_m_r_c_'s N_t_n_l _r_n_t_cs _nd Sp_c_ _dm_n_str_t_n (N_S_) h_s_s_cc_ssf_lly _nfl_t_d _n_w, _xp_r_m_nt_l_r_m_f_r_cr_w_m_mb_rs_t_s_n sp_c_. Th_ _nfl_t_bl_p_d_s_n_w_n_xt_ns_n_t_th_ _nt_rn_t_n_l Sp_c_ St_t_n (_SS). _t_s_r_g_hly_f_r m_tr_s_l_ng _nd 3.2 m_tr_s_w_d_. _t_t_k_thr_d_ys t_f_lly_nfl_t_. _SS_cr_w_m_mb_rs_n_w_h_v_t_w_t_w_k_b_f_r_nt_rng_t. N_S_ _ng_n_rs_m_st_f_rst _ns_r_t_s_r_t_ght. Th_bl_w-p_c_mprtm_nt_s_p_r_t_f_t_st_n_th_f_s_b_l_ty_f_nfl_t_bl_cc_mm_d_t_n_n_th_M_n_d_M_rs,_ _nd_f_r_b_t_ng_sp_c_h_t_ls. N_S_p_d_\$17.8_m_ll_n_f_r th_d_m_c_p_s_l_. _t_h_p_s_th_s_n_t_l_t_st_w_ll_l_d t_b_gg_r_nfl_t_bl_r_ms_t_th_sp_c_st_t_n.

Th_ _nfl_t_bl_ _s_th_w_rld's_f_rst_bl_w-p_c_p_s_l_f_r _str_n_ts, c_sm_n_ts _nd _th_r_sp_c_tr_v_ll_rs. _t_s_c_ll_d_th_B_g_l_w_xp_nd_bl_ct_v_ty_M_d_l_, _r_B_M_f_rsh_r_t. _t_s_n_m_d_ft_r_B_g_l_w_r_sp_c_, th_c_m_p_ny_th_t_d_s_gn_d _nd_b_l_t_t. C_m_p_ny_f__nd_r_R_b_r_t_B_g_l_w_h_s_sp_nt_m_ny_y_rs _nv_st_ng _n _nd_b_ld_ng_h_t_ls. H_ _s_c_rr_ntly_w_rk_ng _n _pr_j_ct_t_b_ld_tw_pr_v_t_sp_c_st_t_ns_th_t_c_ld_s_rv_s_h_t_ls_n_th_h_v_ns_by th_ _nd_f_th_d_c_d_. H_s_d_h_nv_s_ns _nfl_t_bl_s_s_b_g_p_r_t_f_sp_c_tr_v_l_nd_t_r_sm_n_th_f_t_r. Th_p_ds_r_sm_ll_n_g_h_t_tr_nsp_r_t_s_c_mpr_ss_d, _rl_ss_n_ts, b_t_b_g_n_g_h _nd st_rdy_n_g_h_t_l_v_n, _nc_f_ll_d_w_th_r.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

america's national aeronautics and space administration (nasa) has successfully inflated a new experimental room for crew members to use in space the inflatable pod is now an extension to the international space station (iss) it is roughly four metres long and 32 metres wide it took three days to fully inflate iss crew members now have to wait a week before entering it nasa engineers must first ensure it is airtight the blow-up compartment is part of a test on the feasibility of inflatable accommodation on the moon and mars and of orbiting space hotels nasa paid \$178 million for the demo capsule it hopes this initial test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station

the inflatable is the world's first blow-up capsule for astronauts cosmonauts and other space travellers it is called the bigelow expandable activity module or beam for short it is named after bigelow aerospace the company that designed and built it company founder robert bigelow has spent many years investing in and building hotels he is currently working on a project to build two private space stations that could serve as hotels in the heavens by the end of the decade he said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism in the future the pods are small enough to transport as compressed airless units but big enough and sturdy enough to live in once filled with air

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully inflated a new, experimental room for crew members to use in space. The inflatable pod is now an extension to the International Space Station (ISS). It is roughly four metres long and 3.2 metres wide. It took three days to fully inflate. ISS crew members now have to wait a week before entering it. NASA engineers must first ensure it is airtight. The blow-up compartment is part of a test on the feasibility of inflatable accommodation on the Moon and Mars, and of orbiting space hotels. NASA paid \$17.8 million for the demo capsule. It hopes this initial test will lead to bigger inflatable rooms at the space station. The inflatable is the world's first blow-up capsule for astronauts, cosmonauts and other space travellers. It is called the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM for short. It is named after Bigelow Aerospace, the company that designed and built it. Company founder Robert Bigelow has spent many years investing in and building hotels. He is currently working on a project to build two private space stations that could serve as hotels in the heavens by the end of the decade. He said he envisions inflatables as a big part of space travel and tourism in the future. The pods are small enough to transport as compressed, airless units, but big enough and sturdy enough to live in, once filled with air.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1605/160531-international-space-station.html>

Money should be spent on health and education, not space research. Discuss.

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. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the ISS inflatable room. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ISS: Make a poster about the ISS. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SPACE TOURISM: Write a magazine article about space tourism. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. 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.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on space tourism. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on what people could do on a space holiday. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c F d F e T f T g F h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. inflated | a. blown up |
| 2. extension | b. add-on |
| 3. roughly | c. approximately |
| 4. airtight | d. sealed |
| 5. initial | e. first |
| 6. built | f. constructed |
| 7. currently | g. presently |
| 8. envisions | h. visualises |
| 9. compressed | i. flattened |
| 10. sturdy | j. strong |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. NASA
2. 3.2 metres
3. A week
4. To see if it is airtight
5. \$17.8 million
6. None
7. BEAM
8. By the end of the decade
9. Space travel and tourism
10. Live in

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. c 8. a 9. d 10. c

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)