Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space

URL: http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0507/050722-ashes.html

Today’s contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Article</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm-ups</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before Reading / Listening</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>While Reading / Listening</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Reading</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Gap Fill</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22 July, 2005
THE ARTICLE

Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of actor James Doohan, star of the cult, 1960s U.S. sci-fi saga *Star Trek*, are to be sent into space, at his request. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 of pneumonia and Alzheimer’s disease at his home in Washington. His last wish, according to his agent, was for his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, played the engineer Scotty in the three *Star Trek* series and seven Hollywood movies. Being space bound in his death is a fitting finale for the actor who remained synonymous with space travel throughout his 40-year career. While he will forever remain in the stratosphere, he leaves on Earth nine children from his three marriages, the youngest of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into space by a Texas based company called Space Services Inc. A company spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will be launched from a California air force base in September. They will be joined by the ashes of *Star Trek* writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002. The creator of *Star Trek*, Gene Roddenberry, also had his ashes put into orbit in 1997. Space Services Inc. specializes in space memorials for those who physically want to leave Earth forever. Doohan’s ashes will be sealed in an airtight aluminum capsule, which will burn up when it re-enters Earth’s atmosphere.
WARM-UPS

1. ASHES TO ASHES: Have you ever thought about your final resting place? Do you think you would prefer to be cremated or buried? What do you think about having your ashes scattered in the following places?
   - Space
   - A river or ocean
   - Mount Everest
   - Your garden
   - The playing field of your favorite soccer / baseball team
   - Into the sky from an airplane above your country
   - Nowhere. I want my ashes kept in one place
   - Other

2. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think having your ashes scattered in space is best. Students B think having a traditional cremation or burial on Earth is best. Change partners often.

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.
   Ashes / cult TV series / 'Star Trek' / space / scattered remains / space travel / rockets / memorials / orbit / Earth’s atmosphere
   Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. ASHES: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with ashes. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. LAST WISHES: In pairs / groups, talk about the following last wishes from different people around the world:
   a. I also want my ashes scattered in space but I can’t afford it. (Jonah, Kenya)
   b. I want my children to eat some of my ashes. (Yuko, Japan)
   c. I want to be buried, not cremated, but Japan doesn’t allow burials. (Kazu, Japan)
   d. To be left to float in the holy Ganges River is the best end. (Sanjay, India)
   e. I want to be placed next to the rest of my family in peace forever. (Kim, USA)
   f. Who cares? When you’re dead, you’re dead. (Lindsay, England)
   g. The ocean is best. You’ll spread around the world. (Enrique, Brazil)
   h. I want my ashes to stay at home on the family altar (Wong, China)
   i. I want my body to be frozen. In future they can bring me back to life. (Monika, Poland)
   j. I think it’s better for my family to decide after I die. (Miriam, Yemen)
   k. Scientific research. Let doctors take what they want. (Ingmar, Finland)

Change partners and compare your opinions.
BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article’s headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

a. An actor is going to have his ashes scattered in space.  
T / F

b. His wife decided to send her husband’s remains space bound.  
T / F

c. The actor spent 40 years acting as a space traveler.  
T / F

d. The actor leaves nine children on Earth.  
T / F

e. The ashes will be taken into space on a Space Shuttle mission.  
T / F

f. The ashes will be joined by those of a science fiction writer.  
T / F

g. There is a company that specializes in space memorials.  
T / F

h. The ashes will orbit the Earth forever.  
T / F

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

a. ashes  
    passed away

b. saga  
    identified

c. fitting  
    forsake

d. synonymous  
    transported

e. stratosphere  
    chronic

f. carried  
    originator

g. died  
    remains

h. creator  
    incinerate

i. leave  
    heavens

j. burn up  
    apt

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

a. cult  
    with space travel

b. his remains to be  
    it re-enters Earth’s atmosphere

c. a fitting  
    to be carried into space

d. remained synonymous  
    scattered in space

e. he will forever  
    be launched

f. The ashes are  
    1960s U.S. sci-fi saga

g. a rocket that will  
    airtight aluminum capsule

h. ...had his ashes put  
    remain in the stratosphere

i. sealed in an  
    into orbit

j. burn up when  
    finale
Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space – 22 July, 2005

WHILE READING / LISTENING

WORD ORDER: Put the underlined words back into the correct order.

Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of actor James Doohan, star of the cult, saga U.S. sci-fi 1960s Star Trek, are to be sent into space, at his request. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 of pneumonia and Alzheimer’s disease at his home in Washington. His last wish, according to his agent, was for scattered remains to be his in space. Doohan, who was 85, played the engineer Scotty in the three Star Trek series and seven Hollywood movies. Being space bound in his death is for finale a fitting the actor who travel synonymous with remained space throughout his 40-year career. While he will forever remain in the stratosphere, he leaves on Earth from three children his nine marriages, the youngest of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into Texas space by a based company called Space Services Inc. A company spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will be launched from a California air force base in September. They will be the joined ashes by of Star Trek writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002. The creator of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry, also had orbit put into his ashes in 1997. Space Services Inc. in memorials space specializes for those who physically want to leave Earth forever. Doohan’s ashes will be sealed in an airtight aluminum capsule, up when burn which will it re-enters Earth’s atmosphere.
AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words ‘last’ and ‘wish’.
   • 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. WORD ORDER: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers.

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

5. STUDENT “LAST WISHES” SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about death and your last wishes.
   • Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
   • Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
   • Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:
   • cult
   • request
   • agent
   • bound
   • synonymous
   • Earth
   • based
   • rocket
   • joined
   • orbit
   • physically
   • burn
DISCUSSION

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)
   a. What was your initial reaction to this headline?
   b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
   c. What do you think of people’s ashes being scattered in space?
   d. What would you like to happen to your body after you die?
   e. Have you ever thought about your final resting place?
   f. Would you prefer to be buried or cremated?
   g. Do you have a last wish?
   h. Have you ever seen Star Trek?
   i. Do you like science fiction books and movies?
   j. Are you interested in space travel?

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)
   a. Did you like reading this article?
   b. What did you think about what you read?
   c. Don’t you think cremation is bad for the atmosphere?
   d. How would you like to be remembered?
   e. What would be a fitting memorial for you?
   f. Do you do anything to remember the deceased members of your family?
   g. Do you think there should be a law against scattering ashes in public places?
   h. Would you like your dead body to be frozen in the hope that scientists could bring you back to life in the future?
   i. Would you like your body to be used in medical research?
   j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.
   a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
   b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
   c. Was there a question you didn’t like?
   d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
   e. What did you like talking about?
   f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
   g. Which was the most difficult question?
Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space – 22 July, 2005

SPEAKING

BEFORE I GO: Talk to you partner(s) about the things you would like to do before you leave the Earth. Finish this sentence starter:

Before I go I’d like to...

a. visit ____________________________________________.

b. thank ____________________________________________.

c. meet ____________________________________________.

d. eat ____________________________________________.

e. tell ____________________________________________.

f. give ____________________________________________.

g. see ____________________________________________.

h. witness ____________________________________________.

i. know ____________________________________________.

j. make sure ____________________________________________.

k. (other) ____________________________________________.

Change partners and share what you heard from your earlier partner(s).

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com
LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of actor James Doohan, star __ __ ____, 1960s U.S. sci-fi saga Star Trek, are to be sent into space, at his ________. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 of ___________ and Alzheimer’s disease at his home in Washington. His last wish, according to his agent, was for his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, _____ ___ ______ Scotty in the three Star Trek series and seven Hollywood movies. Being ______ _____ in his death is a fitting finale for the actor who remained ________ with space travel throughout his 40-year career. While he will forever remain in the __________, he leaves on Earth nine children from his three marriages, the youngest of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into space by a Texas _____ company called Space Services Inc. A company spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will __ _______ from a California air force base in September. They will be joined by the ashes of Star Trek ______ John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002. The creator of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry, also had his ashes ___ ___ _____ in 1997. Space Services Inc. specializes in space _________ for those who physically want to leave Earth forever. Doohan’s ashes will be _________ in an _________ aluminum capsule, which will burn up when it _________ Earth’s atmosphere.
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 more information on Star Trek. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. ASHES POLICY: Make some recommendations to your government on the desirability of people scattering their ashes in public places. Show your recommendations to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all think about similar things?

4. LAST WISHES: Write a letter outlining your last wishes. Read your letter to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all have similar last wishes?
Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space – 22 July, 2005

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. ashes passed away
b. saga identified
c. fitting forsake
d. synonymous transported
e. stratosphere chronicle
f. carried originator
g. died remains
h. creator incinerate
i. leave heavens
j. burn up apt

PHRASE MATCH:

a. cult with space travel
b. his remains to be it re-enters Earth’s atmosphere
c. a fitting to be carried into space
d. remained synonymous scattered in space
e. he will forever be launched
f. The ashes are 1960s U.S. sci-fi saga
g. a rocket that will airtight aluminum capsule
h. ...had his ashes put remain in the stratosphere
i. sealed in an into orbit
j. burn up when finale

WORD ORDER:

Actor’s ashes to be scattered in space

BNE: The ashes of actor James Doohan, star of the cult, 1960s U.S. sci-fi saga Star Trek, are to be sent into space, at his request. Mr. Doohan died on July 20 of pneumonia and Alzheimer’s disease at his home in Washington. His last wish, according to his agent, was for his remains to be scattered in space. Doohan, who was 85, played the engineer Scotty in the three Star Trek series and seven Hollywood movies. Being space bound in his death is a fitting finale for the actor who remained synonymous with space travel throughout his 40-year career. While he will forever remain in the stratosphere, he leaves on Earth nine children from his three marriages, the youngest of whom is five.

The ashes are to be carried into space by a Texas based company called Space Services Inc. A company spokesperson said they could be on a rocket that will be launched from a California air force base in September. They will be joined by the ashes of Star Trek writer John Meredyth Lucas, who died in 2002. The creator of Star Trek, Gene Roddenberry, also had his ashes put into orbit in 1997. Space Services Inc. specializes in space memorials for those who physically want to leave Earth forever. Doohan’s ashes will be sealed in an airtight aluminum capsule, which will burn up when it re-enters Earth’s atmosphere.

Find this and similar lessons at http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com