



# SPACE TOURISM



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
1G32-Z1L2-78C



1

## Warm up

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. Would you like to travel into space? Why / why not?
2. What comes to your mind when you hear the term "space tourism"?
3. How do you think space tourism might evolve over the next few decades?





## 2

**Focus on vocabulary**

Match the words with the correct definitions.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. spaceship    | a. a special path on which aircraft take off and land  |
| 2. entrepreneur | b. a person who starts their own business  |
| 3. celebrity    | c. produced or designed for as many people as possible, not only for a few very rich customers |
| 4. runway       | d. a vehicle that travels in space   |
| 5. mass market  | e. the effect that something has   |
| 6. aviation     | f. the activity/industry of designing, producing or flying aircraft                            |
| 7. incentive    | g. someone who is famous, especially in the entertainment business                             |
| 8. impact       | h. something that encourages you to do something   |

## 3

**Scanning for details**

Read the article on page three and find the following information.

1. The founder of the space tourism business, Virgin Galactic → \_\_\_\_\_
2. The year in which the company was founded → \_\_\_\_\_
3. The location of the business' new runway → \_\_\_\_\_
4. The number of people who have flown into space → \_\_\_\_\_
5. The cost of a space flight with Space Adventures → \_\_\_\_\_
6. The cost of a ticket with Virgin Galactic → \_\_\_\_\_
7. The number of people who have booked a ticket to fly into space with Virgin Galactic → \_\_\_\_\_
8. The cost of a commercial space flight → \_\_\_\_\_
9. The future price of a space flight ticket according to some newspaper reports → \_\_\_\_\_



## Ready to boldly go where no tourists have gone before?

**Start the countdown: the next travel era will be launching sooner than expected.**

- A. In a few years, we could be using spaceships as we use passenger airplanes, according to independent space agency analysts. Commercial operators are now competing to operate scheduled services to the outer limits of the Earth's atmosphere. Hundreds of wealthy entrepreneurs, celebrities and scientists have already booked tickets for the first flights by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic space tourism business. Its new runway in New Mexico (USA) opened recently. The first mission, known as Galactic 02, took off in August 2023. Aboard the spacecraft were six individuals in total including three private passengers.
- B. Professor Richard Crowther, Technical Adviser to the UK Space Agency, predicted that in the future space trips would become a lot more regular and a lot cheaper. "It will be very expensive at first, but the technology that will then develop will open up space to everybody," he said. "In the early days of aviation, very few people went on aircraft, but now it's mass market. A mass market for taking people into space will be a long way away, but the costs should fall with new technology." Fewer than 500 people have flown into space on spaceships operated by Russia, the US and China. With the Cold War over, the US and Russia have lost the incentive to invest billions into space programmes. Instead, commercial enterprises have become interested. One of them is Virgin Galactic, founded by the British entrepreneur, Sir Richard Branson in 2004. Another is Blue Origin, started by Amazon creator, Jeff Bezos.
- C. Another company, Space Adventures arranged for seven multi-millionaires to live on the Russian Soyuz space station for up to 15 days, paying \$20m each. According to Virgin Galactic, 380 people have booked tickets on its VSS Enterprise at \$200,000 each. They include several well-known scientists, celebrities and businessmen. Virgin said space tourism had allowed scientific advances to take place without state funding.
- D. Will Whitehorn, Virgin Galactic's president, said there was a very low environmental impact. "We will, in a 10-year programme, fly tens of thousands of people into space with less impact than one NASA Space Shuttle." The flights will also be much cheaper: around £1m per flight, compared with £1bn for a US space shuttle flight. The reason is that the Virgin Galactic spaceships are much lighter than NASA spaceships and can be re-used. Mr Whitehorn denied reports that the price would fall to \$20,000. "I don't think it will ever get that low," he said, but he added that it would become much cheaper than \$200,000.

Source: *The Independent, The Guardian*





## 4

**Reading comprehension**

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the text.

1. It is currently possible for tourists to fly to space on a regular basis. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Space tourism will soon become a mass market. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Governments have become less interested in developing space flight technology. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Scientific advances have taken place because of space tourism. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Space tourism will have a serious impact on the environment. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The cost of a commercial space flight is much cheaper than a NASA flight because of the spaceship design. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The price of a space flight ticket will become cheaper in the future. \_\_\_\_\_

## 5

**Grammar - Reported speech**

Part A: Who made the following statements in the article?

1. "Space trips will become a lot more regular and a lot cheaper." - \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Space tourism has allowed scientific advances to take place without state funding." - \_\_\_\_\_
3. "There is a very low environmental impact." - \_\_\_\_\_
4. "The price will not fall to \$20,000." - \_\_\_\_\_





**Part B: Compare the direct statements above with the reported statements in the article. Answer the following questions:**

1. What verbs are used in the article to report the statements above?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What tense changes take place when the direct statements with "will" and in Present Perfect and Present Simple tenses become reported statements?

3. What do you think happens to Present Continuous and 'can' in reported statements?

4. Find another reported statement in the last paragraph of the article. What is the direct statement?

5. Find a direct statement in Paragraph 8 and report it. *Will Whitehorn said that Virgin....*

## 6

### Grammar practice - Reported speech

Complete the reported statements below.

1. *"I have booked a ticket to fly into space."* → The celebrity declared that he

2. *"The price will decrease because the service will become mass market."* → The company president told reporters that

3. *"Currently, it is not possible to fly into space cheaply."* → The journalist said that

4. *"Robots will become as intelligent as people within the next 50 years because science is advancing rapidly."* → The scientist predicted that

5. *"We considered developing the product last year."* → The marketing director admitted they \_\_\_\_\_ the previous year.

6. *"Unemployment is not rising."* → The government denied that unemployment



## 7

**Grammar - Reported questions**

Compare the direct and reported questions below.

**Direct question:** "When will the first space flights take off?"

**Reported question:** The reporter asked the company president when the first space flights would take off.

**Direct question:** "Have many people flown into space?"

**Reported question:** The pupil wanted to know if many people had flown into space.

Now, answer the following questions.

- What differences do you notice in the word order between **direct questions** and **reported questions**?
- In the second direct question, there is no **question word** (when, who, what, how, etc.). What word is used in the reported question?
- What are the direct questions for the following reported questions?

1. The customer wanted to know when the company had been founded.

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2. The interviewer asked the candidate why she wanted to work for his company.

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3. The manager asked his employee if he had completed the report the day before.

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4. The secretary asked her boss if she could take a day off the next day.

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## 8

**Grammar practice - Reported questions**

Write reported questions for the following direct questions.

1. The student asked the teacher, "Can you explain the use of the present perfect?"

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2. Teresa asked Mr Andrews, "How long have you been working for your company?"

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3. The new employee asked, "Where is the office canteen?"

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4. The interviewer asked the businesswoman, "Have you ever thought of becoming a politician?"

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5. James asked, "When is the new delivery arriving?"

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6. Duncan asked his boss, "Do you think we will receive additional funding for the project?"

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## 9

**Talking point**

In pairs or small groups, discuss the following questions.

1. Do you think space tourism could become mass market?
2. Would you like to travel to space as a tourist if you had the opportunity? Why or why not?
3. How do you think space tourism could benefit society?
4. Do you think space tourism should be accessible to everyone, or should it be reserved for the wealthy?
5. What do you think are some potential negative consequences of widespread space tourism?