

## G R A M M A R

Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Write the correct form in the space provided.

### Sci-Fi Ideas That Could Change the Future of Space Exploration

In the past year, a tiny helicopter **(1)** ..... **(fly)** on Mars and the James Webb Space Telescope **(2)** ..... **(reveal)** new insights about the universe. Beginning decades ago as ideas that seemed more like science fiction, these missions took years of research and testing to come to life.

Space exploration **(3)** ..... **(fascinate, always)** humanity. Since the launch of Sputnik in 1957, humans **(4)** ..... **(try)** to understand the cosmos. Technological advances and scientific breakthroughs **(5)** ..... **(transform)** how we observe and investigate the cosmos. How will space exploration change in the coming decades, and what new possibilities will emerge?

In recent years, private companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin **(6)** ..... **(enter)** the space race. SpaceX **(7)** ..... **(launch)** reusable rockets, significantly reducing the cost of space travel. Just last year, SpaceX's Starship prototype **(8)** ..... **(complete)** a high-altitude flight test, marking a major step towards Mars colonisation.

For the past few years, Congrui Jin and her research group **(9)** ..... **(use)** bacteria and fungi to heal cracks in concrete. Jin, an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, now **(10)** ..... **(want)** to take her idea to space. Her self-growing bricks could one day build habitats and other structures for human explorers on the red planet.

Currently, NASA **(11)** ..... **(work)** on the Artemis program, which aims to return humans to the moon by 2026. Scientists are excited about the potential discoveries that await us on this mission.

Looking ahead, the possibilities are endless. Advances in technology **(12)** ..... **(enable)** us to explore further into the solar system and beyond. If we **(13)** ..... **(discover)** life on other planets, it **(14)** ..... **(change)** our understanding of the universe and our place in it. As we **(15)** ..... **(continue)** to push the boundaries of what is possible, we will undoubtedly uncover new knowledge and inspire future generations to reach for the stars.

(<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/02/04/world/nasa-niac-space-exploration-concepts-scni/index.html>, adapted)

**Total points: ...../15 pts**

## VOCABULARY

Read the article below. Use the word given in CAPITALS to form a word that fits in the space. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

## How Airbnb Took Over the World.

In 2007, ...<sup>1</sup>... Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia were struggling to pay their rent in San Francisco. With a major design conference coming to town and hotel rooms in short supply, they saw an ...<sup>2</sup>.... They blew up three air mattresses in their living room and set up a simple website offering a bed and breakfast experience for attendees. This makeshift setup marked the birth of Airbed & Breakfast. The concept was simple and ...<sup>3</sup>..., and would ...<sup>4</sup>... evolve into the \$75 billion global hospitality behemoth that is Airbnb.

Chesky and Gebbia's clever idea quickly became popular. ...<sup>5</sup>..., their guests were ...<sup>6</sup>... attendees desperate for a place to stay. They charged a modest fee, offering not just a place to sleep, but also breakfast and a unique ...<sup>7</sup>... to connect with local San Franciscans. Recognising the potential, the duo decided to take their concept to the next level. They teamed up with Nathan Blecharczyk, a former flatmate and skilled computer ...<sup>8</sup>..., to build a more robust platform. This team of three, each bringing a unique skill set, worked tirelessly to develop a user-friendly website that could connect hosts and ...<sup>9</sup>... worldwide. They expanded their offering beyond air mattresses in living rooms, encouraging people to list their spare rooms, flats, and even entire homes.

Despite the ...<sup>10</sup>... start, the road ahead was far from smooth. The early days were fraught with ...<sup>11</sup>..., from legal obstacles to scepticism from venture capital ...<sup>12</sup>.... The trio faced ...<sup>13</sup>... rejections as they sought funding, with many doubting the viability of their business model. But they remained ...<sup>14</sup>... and sought to refine their platform, improving the user experience and building trust with their growing ...<sup>15</sup>... of users.

Airbnb was not just a business. It was a ...<sup>16</sup>..., and for a time, it seemed unstoppable. Today, the perception of Airbnb has changed ...<sup>17</sup>.... Declining housing affordability, absurd ...<sup>18</sup>... prices, disappointing Airbnb experiences, and ...<sup>19</sup>... have hurt its reputation. What was once seen as a disruptor is now seen as a contributor to the housing crisis in cities like New York, Dallas, and San Francisco. The cheaper ...<sup>20</sup>... to expensive hotels is now blamed for higher rents and too many tourists.

(<https://northamerica.visionmagazine.com/the-rise-of-airbnb/>, adapted)

ROOM	1.....	DIFFICULT	11.....
OPPORTUNE	2.....	INVEST	12.....
EFFECT	3.....	NUMBER	13.....
EVENT	4.....	ENTHUSE	14.....
INITIAL	5.....	COMMUNE	15.....
CONFER	6.....	MOVE	16.....
POSSIBLE	7.....	SIGNIFICANT	17.....
PROGRAM	8.....	PROPER	18.....
TRAVEL	9.....	INFLUENCE	19.....
PROMISE	10.....	ALTER	20.....

Total points: ...../10 pts

## READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text and complete the task. There are 10 phrases (A-L) missing from the article. Decide which of the phrases (A-L) best fits into each of the numbered gaps in the text. There are two extra phrases.

**First Star I See Tonight**

Dr Tomas Streyer looked around the control room at his team of scientists and engineers. He was pretending to be calm, but he (1)\_\_\_\_. The next few minutes would be the starting point of years more research towards understanding the secrets of how the universe had begun.

He looked out of the window at the beautiful blue summer sky and (2)\_\_\_\_\_.

“Ready,” he said, and (3)\_\_\_\_, bringing to life the complicated computers and machines around them.

“Set,” he said, and (4)\_\_\_\_ that lay in a large underground laboratory, deep beneath the towns and fields of Switzerland.

“Go,” he said, at exactly twelve o’clock, and pressed the final button.

For a second, everything went absolutely black, as if he had gone blind. Tomas (5)\_\_\_\_, but the lights were already on again. Whatever that was, it was not supposed to have happened.

“Everybody check the systems!” he ordered, but nothing seemed to be wrong with them. The particle accelerator was working just as he (6)\_\_\_\_\_.

“Look outside,” said one of the assistants in a frightened voice.

Instead of the perfect summer day of five minutes ago, the sky was darker than the blackest night. Not only had the sun disappeared, there weren’t even any stars.

People were shouting and screaming, calling their families, afraid that they too (7)\_\_\_\_. Tomas ignored their noise. He sat at the main computer and started reading the data from his experiment. Nothing there explained what was happening. He (8)\_\_\_\_, his team running behind him until they were all outside the laboratory building.

Everyone else in the research centre was outside, panicking and confused. They were using the screens and torches on their mobile phones to see where they were going, waving them around like giant fireflies.

Then, almost twenty minutes after Tomas had started his experiment, without warning the sun (9)\_\_\_\_, warm and yellow, and the black sky turned blue again. Everyone started laughing and dancing around, and Tomas 10)\_\_\_\_\_.

But later, hours later, when the real night fell again, no one was celebrating. Although the moon rose as usual, there was not a star to be seen.

READING COMPREHENSION

(continued)

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| A. took a deep breath             | G. pressed the first button                  |
| B. had hoped it would             | H. cried out in shock                        |
| C. breathed a sigh of relief      | I. switched on the huge particle accelerator |
| D. sat down again                 | J. had suddenly disappeared                  |
| E. was both excited and terrified | K. rushed for the exit                       |
| F. reappeared in the sky          | L. broke off his conversation                |

**Total points: ...../10 pts**

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**Listen carefully and circle the correct answer. You will score five points.**

**1 According to Peter Abbott, what is the key quality of a good diplomat?**

- A. Being strict and authoritative.
- B. Showing interest and consideration for others.
- C. Being humorous and relaxed.
- D. Being knowledgeable about politics.

**2 What does Peter Abbott miss the most when he is abroad?**

- A. The local food and music.
- B. The easy-going lifestyle in Britain.
- C. The political discussions.
- D. The busy streets of London.

**3 What is Peter Abbott's view of Britain's role in the modern world?**

- A. It has weakened significantly.
- B. It is focused on domestic issues.
- C. It is less involved in international affairs.
- D. It continues to be a significant global power.

**4 What does Peter Abbott value most about his diplomatic career?**

- A. Building international relationships.
- B. The discussions he has with ordinary people.
- C. The chance to change world politics.
- D. The chance to represent British culture abroad.

**5 How does Peter Abbott see the relationship between the US and Britain?**

- A. As a challenging and competitive partnership.
- B. As a distant and formal connection.
- C. As a temporary and uncertain collaboration.
- D. As a strong and trustworthy alliance.

**Total points: ...../5 pts**

Autorka: Mgr. Jakub Hriňák, PhD.

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

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