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Take Away English 随身英语

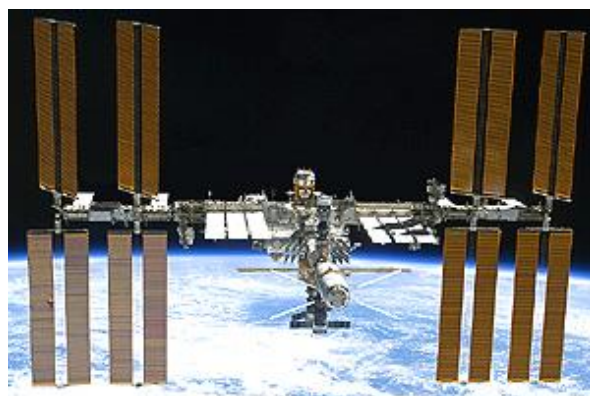
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Working in space 在太空中工作

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Vocabulary: Space 词汇: 太空

Bored with your life? Dreaming of something different? When I feel like that I look up and wonder what life would be like 400km above my head. That's where the **International Space Station** orbits the Earth, with six **astronauts** living and working on board, for months at a time.



How about this for your "office"?

How do they sleep? They spend the night floating in a **sleeping bag** inside a small cubicle on the ceiling. American astronaut Sunita Williams explains: "It's like a little phone booth but it's pretty **comfy** and it doesn't matter if I turn over and sleep **upside down**. I don't have any sensation in my head that tells me I'm upside down."

Brushing your teeth in a place where you can't have a tap or a sink can be a challenge. Can you imagine the mess that running water would make in **zero gravity**? Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield uses a straw to put a big blob of water from a **sealed** bag onto an ordinary toothbrush and adds a little toothpaste - which he has to swallow when he's done.

Daily exercise is **essential**. The lack of gravity makes bones more **brittle** and muscles lose strength - so astronauts are encouraged to work out for at least two hours a day.

The role of astronauts in the International Space Station is to act as **lab technicians** for scientists back on Earth. So they spend their time maintaining their environment and performing and monitoring experiments in a **confined space** about the size of a Boeing 747. Almost every task is carefully planned by **mission control** - although most astronauts spend their first days losing stuff until they get used to sticking everything they use to the walls with **Velcro**, **duct tape** or clips.

One of their most valued **perks** is the view from "the office", dominated by that gigantic blue ball down there, sitting in the darkness of space. Wow! Absolutely **breathtaking**!

词汇表

International Space Station	国际空间站
to orbit	环绕.....轨道运行
an astronaut	宇航员
a sleeping bag	睡袋
comfy	舒服的
upside down	倒置地, 颠倒过来地
gravity	重力
sealed	密封的
essential	必不可少的
brittle	容易断裂的
lab technician	实验室技术人员
a confined space	一个有限的空间
mission control	航天地面指挥中心
Velcro	尼龙搭扣
duct tape	牛皮胶布
perk	好处
breathhtaking	令人惊叹的, 壮观的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How high up is the International Space Station?
2. True or false? *Astronauts get dizzy when they sleep upside down.*
3. Why do astronauts lose things?
4. What becomes weak if astronauts don't exercise?
5. Who tells astronauts what to do?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Here's _____. You can use it to keep the sheets of your essay together.

Velcro	a clip	a straw	some perks
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2. My job is just to keep an eye on this experiment and see if there is anything different. I'm just _____ it.

performing	maintaining	monitoring	floating
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3. My mobile, my keys... wait till I get my _____ and we are ready to leave.

stuff	duct tape	Velcro	gravity
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4. You look tired after walking all day. Come on, sit on this _____ chair.

upside down	comfy	confined	brittle
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5. If the company is to survive the economic downturn, increasing profitability is _____!

a choice	a plan	essential	a perk
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How high up is the International Space Station?
It orbits 400km above the Earth's surface.
2. True or false? *Astronauts get dizzy when they sleep upside down.*
False. According to astronaut Sunita Williams, they don't have any sensations in their head telling them they are upside down. They don't even feel it.
3. Why do astronauts lose things?
Because in zero gravity, everything that is not stuck down, floats.
4. What becomes weak if astronauts don't exercise?
Their bones and muscles.
5. Who tells astronauts what to do?
Scientists on Earth and mission control.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Here's a **clip**. You can use it to keep the sheets of your essay together.
2. My job is just to keep an eye on this experiment and see if there is anything different. I'm just **monitoring** it.
3. My mobile, my keys... wait till I get my **stuff** and we are ready to leave.
4. You look tired after walking all day. Come on, sit on this **comfy** chair.
5. If the company is to survive the economic downturn, increasing profitability is **essential**!