



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

A Mission of the Mind  
意志的考验

## A Mission of the Mind 意志的考验

### Six Astronauts Are Tested to the Limit 对6名宇航员的极限考验

**Read the text below and do the activity that follows.**

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Have you ever been on a **long-haul flight**? How did you **pass the time**? Perhaps you watched an in-flight movie or read a book.

Well it would have to be a very long book to keep you amused for 520 days. That's how long six men are going to be **sealed away from humanity** in a warehouse in the suburbs of Moscow from tomorrow.

No, this isn't another **weird** reality TV show, but an experiment from the European Space Agency and Russia's Institute of Biomedical Problems to test the **psychological impact** of a **manned** mission to Mars.

The six astronauts will live in conditions **approximating** a real space mission. A 550-cubic-metre **mock-up** within the warehouse includes an **interplanetary** spaceship, a Mars **lander** and a **Martian** landscape.

The group of six - which includes one Chinese astronaut, Wang Yue - will work, relax and sleep in eight-hour **shifts**, take two days off a week and shower once every ten days.

All communication with **mission control** will **be subject to** a twenty-minute delay to reproduce the effects of distance.

After 250 days, the astronauts will divide into two groups. Three will move to the Martian surface **simulator** for a month while the rest will remain '**in orbit**'. Then the six will be reunited for a 240-day return journey to... well, the outside world.

Throughout, the organisers of the project will use cameras to monitor everything that happens 'on board'. They will gather new information about personal stress levels, **emotional well-being** and **group dynamics**.

Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, a scientist with the satellite manufacturer EADS Astrium, believes that the experiment will be extremely valuable. However, she points out that without the glory of being the first humans to visit the Red Planet, it could be hard for these **pioneers** to maintain motivation.

"It's far less likely this would be a problem if you really were going to Mars", she says. "But the danger is that because you know you're really in a **hangar** in Moscow, you start thinking: 'I can't be bothered'."

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>long-haul flight</b> – 长途飞行	<b>pass the time</b> – 打发时间，消磨时间
<b>sealed away from humanity</b> – 与人类隔离	<b>weird</b> – 奇怪的
<b>psychological impact</b> – 心理冲击	<b>manned</b> – 载人的
<b>approximating</b> – 接近	<b>mock-up</b> – 实物复制品
<b>interplanetary</b> - 行星之间的	<b>lander</b> – 着陆舱
<b>Martian</b> – 火星的	<b>shifts</b> – 轮班
<b>mission control</b> – 指挥中心	<b>be subject to</b> – 受限制
<b>simulator</b> – 模拟器	<b>in orbit</b> – 在轨道内
<b>emotional well-being</b> – 精神、情感健康	<b>group dynamics</b> – 团体动态
<b>pioneers</b> – 先驱者	<b>hangar</b> – 飞机棚

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

**Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.**

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Six astronauts are travelling to Mars this week. **True / False**
2. The experiment will test the effects of a flight to Mars on people's mental state. **True / False**
3. Cameras will film the astronauts for TV. **True / False**
4. The organisers are interested in how the astronauts interact with one another. **True / False**
5. Some people think the astronauts might start to lose their enthusiasm after a period of time. **True / False**



### **3. Nouns and Adjectives** 名词和形容词

单词 **Martian** 是名词 **Mars** 火星的形容词性。不过有时候 **noun** 名词的形容词性和其本身相比会产生较大的变化。

请把括号里的名词的形容词性填在横线上。

1. The experiment is very [pioneers] \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He gave an amazing [motivation] \_\_\_\_\_ speech before the start of the race.
3. No-one can forget those [glory] \_\_\_\_\_ early space missions.
4. I don't like that kind of music. It's too [experiment] \_\_\_\_\_ for me.
5. I've tried several times to talk to him but he's just not very [communication] \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I find listening to the radio to be very [relax] \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I found the programme most [information] \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The promotion of the new product is proving to be very [problem] \_\_\_\_\_.
9. He spends all his time in the library. But then, he's always been a very [book] \_\_\_\_\_ person.

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出刚才在文章中学到的英语单词来。找的时候，别忘了想一想它们的意思。

共有**10**个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

f	i	n	o	r	b	i	t	a	c	s	i	n
b	a	l	i	o	n	t	u	n	n	i	t	a
w	e	l	l	b	e	i	n	g	a	m	u	l
d	i	s	w	e	i	r	d	i	n	u	r	l
s	h	i	u	n	i	p	p	u	l	l	a	n
d	a	n	s	b	u	r	r	i	n	a	m	b
e	n	o	h	u	j	i	g	g	i	t	m	y
e	g	p	i	o	n	e	e	r	s	o	a	p
w	a	i	f	f	a	r	c	k	i	r	n	e
i	r	a	t	i	m	a	r	t	i	a	n	e
p	u	l	s	e	z	i	l	e	t	s	e	t
l	l	o	r	r	e	c	t	a	i	o	d	o

shifts	hangar	in orbit	simulator
well-being		manned	Martian
be subject to		weird	pioneers

# Answers 答案

## 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- Six astronauts are travelling to Mars this week. **False**
- The experiment will test the effects of a flight to Mars on people's mental state. **True**
- Cameras will film the astronauts for TV. **False**
- The organisers are interested in how the astronauts interact with one another. **True**
- Some people think the astronauts might start to lose their enthusiasm after a period of time. **True**

## 3. Nouns and Adjectives 名词和形容词

- The experiment is very **pioneering**.
- He gave an amazing **motivational** speech before the start of the race.
- No-one can forget those **glorious** early space missions.
- I don't like that kind of music. It's too **experimental** for me.
- I've tried several times to talk to him but he's just not very **communicative**.
- I find listening to the radio to be very **relaxing**.
- I found the programme most **informative**.
- The promotion of the new product is proving to be very **problematic**.
- He spends all his time in the library. But then, he's always been a very **bookish** person.

## 2. Vocabulary Practice 词汇练习

- It could be hard for these **pioneers** to maintain motivation
- No, this isn't another **weird** reality TV show.
- Three will move to the Martian surface **simulator** for a month while the rest will remain ' **in orbit**'.
- Have you ever been on a **long-haul flight**?
- The organisers will gather new information about personal stress levels, **emotional well-being** and **group dynamics**.
- The six astronauts will live in conditions **approximating** a real space mission.
- The group of six will work, relax and sleep in eight-hour **shifts**.
- All communication with **mission control** will **be subject** to a twenty-minute delay.

## 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

	i	n	o	r	b	i	t		s		
b									i		
w	e	l	l	b	e	i	n	g	m		
		s	w	e	i	r	d		u		
	h		u						l		
	a		s	b					a		
	n		h		j				t	m	
	g	p	i	o	n	e	e	r	s	o	a
	a		f				c		r	n	
	r		t		m	a	r	t	i	a	n
			s						t	e	
									o	d	