



Space

W: Hello everybody! Here is a world-famous sentence: 'one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'. Who knows the author of these words?

Sarah: yes! These were Neil Armstrong's words when he set foot on the moon on July 21st 1969.

W: Very good Sarah. So the topic today is how the space age has transformed the way we live, making global communications far easier and cheaper. Does anyone wish to comment this?

Sarah: well we know that thanks to Earth-observing satellites, we have an accurate way of mapping the planet, but they can also locate mineral deposits, flood or fire hazards, measure the retreat of glaciers and track a hurricane.

W: Sure. But space exploration means much more things like for instance finding the origins of life. The space probe Huygens landed on Saturn's largest moon, Titan, to help us understand the origins of life on Earth. Likewise, the proof of past water and methane on Mars is intriguing scientists who believed that the planet was long dead.

Sarah: so you mean that exploring our universe has become an urgent necessity for the future survival of our species, right?

W: Of course it is! But first of all the US, Europe and China will have to face a stark choice: cooperate or go it alone if they want to put a man on Mars.

Sarah: anyway, even if we could live on Mars, we should first get there. The hundred million-mile journey to Mars would take nine months and would be a physical as well as psychological battle for survival.

W: Sure, but we can now start training as for the modest outlay of around a hundred thousand US Dollars you can take a trip to outer space!



GLOSSARY:

Space	Global communications
To set foot	Earth-observing satellites
To transform	An accurate way
To wish	Mineral deposits
To map	Flood and fire hazards
To locate	The retreat of glaciers
To measure	A hurricane
To track	Space exploration
To find	The origins of life
To land	The proof
To intrigue	Past
To explore	Methane
To become	Universe
To face	An urgent necessity
To cooperate	The future survival
To go it alone	Our species
To get somewhere	A stark choice
To train	The hundred million-mile journey
A world-famous sentence	A battle
one small step for man	The modest outlay
one giant leap for mankind	A trip
The author	Outer space
The moon	Thanks to
The space age	Likewise
	Long dead



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