

'A big responsibility': astronaut from UAE on longest ever Arab space mission

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article talks about an Emirati astronaut's record-breaking space mission

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Present perfect

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to get students to think about the similarities and differences between life on Earth and life in space. Ask them to consider any areas that interest them. Put students in pairs or small groups to complete the Venn diagram. Encourage them to discuss and share their ideas, cite examples, and give reasons to back up their opinions.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Students may be familiar with the word *engaged* to mean *two people who've promised to marry each other* and with *icon* as a *pictorial symbol for something*.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <i>icon</i> | 7. <i>engaged</i> |
| 2. <i>orbit</i> | 8. <i>exploration</i> |
| 3. <i>dominate</i> | 9. <i>excitement</i> |
| 4. <i>vital</i> | 10. <i>float</i> |
| 5. <i>wonder</i> | 11. <i>emphasise</i> |
| 6. <i>pressure</i> | 12. <i>spacewalk</i> |

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

Key:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>pressure</i> | 5. <i>engaged</i> |
| 2. <i>orbit</i> | 6. <i>floating</i> |
| 3. <i>wonder</i> | 7. <i>icon</i> |
| 4. <i>emphasising</i> | 8. <i>vital</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Students answer the questions based on the information in the article. They may do this in different ways, e.g., in item 1, they may say, '*She was a popular Egyptian singer and songwriter*' or similar.

Key (suggested answers):

- an iconic Egyptian singer*
- because he is completing the longest Arab space mission*
- bring a taste of Arab culture to space*
- America and Russia*
- najmanaut, cosmonaut, astronaut*
- six*
- 250 miles (400 km); 17,500 mph (28,000 (km/h)*
- explaining daily life in the space station and celebrating the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival*
- People are excited to see places they know and want to see their hometowns.*
- It was the first time three Arabs were in space together.*

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. The verbs are all used in the article in the present perfect form. As an extension activity, you could ask students to go back to the text and find where they appear.

Key:

Present simple	Past simple	Present perfect simple
<i>tell(s)</i>	<i>told</i>	<i>have/has told</i>
<i>am/is/are</i>	<i>was/were</i>	<i>have/has been</i>
<i>create(s)</i>	<i>created</i>	<i>have/has created</i>
<i>break(s)</i>	<i>broke</i>	<i>have/has broken</i>

'A big responsibility': astronaut from UAE on longest ever Arab space mission

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

- b. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Remind students that more than one answer is possible for two of the items.

Key:

1. *'ve* have never broken
2. *has* always told
3. *have* you been
4. *has* created

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the statements related to the article and give their reasons and justifications for each answer, referring to their own experiences wherever possible.

6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to research the International Space Station.
- b. Ask students to report their findings to the class and share their opinions.