

Circle the letter or letters of each correct answer. A question may have more than one correct answer.

1. Of which of the following could a **replica** be made?

(a) a rebuff	(c) an ancient coin
(b) the <i>Bounty</i>	(d) a dinosaur bone

2. Which of the following could be called a **fledgling**?

(a) a chick that is about to hatch	(c) a robin testing its wings
(b) an inexperienced waiter	(d) a two-star general

3. Which of the following can be **condescending**?

(a) a remark	(c) a person
(b) an attitude	(d) an elevator

4. With which of the following can one be **deluged**?

(a) offers	(c) orders
(b) mail	(d) water

5. Which of the following would have **colleagues**?

(a) a doctor	(c) a recluse
(b) a lawyer	(d) a college professor

6. Which of the following might a person suffering from **claustrophobia** avoid?

(a) open spaces	(c) elevators
(b) heights	(d) narrow tunnels

7. Which of the following could be **negligible**?

(a) an amount of time lost	(c) a sum of money
(b) a careless driver	(d) an amount of damage

8. Which of the following can be **dispelled**?

(a) fear	(c) doubts
(b) suspicion	(d) fog

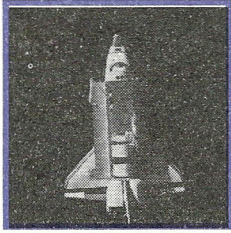
claustrophobia
 colleague
 condescend
 contingent
 daunt
 deluge
 dispel
 dub
 fanfare
 fledgling
 inane
 mettle
 negligible
 protract
 replica

Each group of four words contains either two synonyms or two antonyms. Circle that pair. Then circle the S if they are synonyms or the A if they are antonyms.

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---|---|
| 1. annoy | name | deluge | dub | S | A |
| 2. fanfare | courage | welcome | mettle | S | A |
| 3. rankle | shorten | protract | deluge | S | A |
| 4. condescend | frighten | daunt | lengthen | S | A |
| 5. contingent | expert | colleague | fledgling | S | A |
| 6. conspire | dispel | condescend | evoke | S | A |
| 7. foolish | inane | negligible | cursory | S | A |
| 8. deluge | copy | address | replica | S | A |
| 9. negligible | meticulous | substantial | gruesome | S | A |
| 10. proprietor | associate | colleague | expert | S | A |

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow it.

Women in Space, Part One



In 1959, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) introduced the first seven United States astronauts to the public. The announcement was made with great **fanfare**; it brought instant fame to the seven. All were former test pilots and all were male.

Less than twenty years later, things had changed. In 1978, another new **contingent** of aspiring astronauts arrived for training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. This time they included scientists, engineers, and medical doctors. In addition, six of the thirty-five **fledgling** astronauts were women.

At first, a **condescending** attitude toward women in the space program by some of the older men presented a problem. These space veterans felt that women lacked “the right stuff” to be astronauts. To **dispel** such prejudices, the women felt that they needed to perform as well as or better than their male counterparts. Candidates had to be smart, tough, and highly educated. They had to be meticulous in everything they did. Physical strength, the one area where the men could outperform the women, was not an important factor. During their year of basic training, the six women met the challenge. They proved their **mettle** in all situations.

Training to be an astronaut was a **daunting** task. The astronauts studied a range of subjects: astronomy, weather, geology, mathematics, navigation, and the human body. They spent hundreds of hours in the classroom learning the inner workings of every part of the space shuttle. Then they received hands-on experience in a **replica** of the shuttle. The model was complete in even the smallest detail. As a result, the actual space shuttle was comfortingly familiar to the astronauts, even when going aboard for the first time.

Trainee astronauts spent time underwater to simulate the effects of weightlessness that they would experience in space. They also went aboard K-135 planes. The planes flew almost vertically upward before turning back along a **protracted** flight path that curved toward the earth. This produced a sensation of weightlessness. These flights also gave other sensations, which led to the trainees **dubbing** this aircraft “the vomit comet.”

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Another important part of the program was survival training, both on land and at sea. What if the space shuttle's rocket engines and their backup systems failed while it was in orbit? The chance of this happening was **negligible**; still, the astronauts had to be prepared for every possibility. Aboard the shuttle were fabric rescue balls, thirty inches in diameter. They could be inflated with oxygen. In an emergency, astronauts would crawl inside them while waiting to be transferred to a rescue vehicle. Climbing into one of these was very unpleasant, especially for anyone suffering even a mild form of **claustrophobia**.

Finally, in the spring of 1982, one of the six women graduates of the space program was chosen for Space Transportation System-Flight 7. She was Sally Ride, a scientist with an advanced degree in physics from Stanford University. She was also an expert in X-ray astronomy and lasers. As soon as the announcement was made, NASA was **deluged** with requests for interviews with the first American woman to fly in space. Dr. Ride cheerfully submitted to endless questions from reporters, answering even the most **inane** questions with patience and good humor.

After the flood of publicity came a further year of intensive training geared to the requirements of the mission for which she had been chosen. Then, on June 18, 1983, along with four male **colleagues**, Dr. Sally Ride began her historic five-day flight aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*.

► Answer each of the following questions in the form of a sentence. If a question does not contain a vocabulary word from the lesson's word list, use one in your answer. Use each word only once.

1. How did the women trainees **dispel** any doubts about their abilities?

2. Why would the space shuttle seem familiar to those boarding it for the first time?

3. What is the meaning of **contingent** as it is used in the passage?

4. Which part of the training would you find **daunting**?

5. How important is physical strength for astronauts?

6. Were women able to succeed in all areas of the training? Explain your answer.

7. Why would someone who was afraid of enclosed spaces be unhappy as an astronaut?

8. What is the meaning of **fanfare** as it is used in the passage?

9. How many women trained along with Dr. Ride?

10. What caused Dr. Ride's training to be **protracted**?

11. Why do you think reporters ask celebrities **inane** questions?

12. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the older male astronauts welcomed the female trainees?

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13. What pet name did the trainees have for the K-135 plane?

14. What is the meaning of **deluge** as it is used in the passage?

15. Would it be accurate to describe Sally Ride as a **fledgling** astronaut when she was chosen for Flight 7? Explain your answer.

FUN & FASCINATING FACTS

• Old Norse was a northern European language spoken in Scandinavia until the fourteenth century. The Old Norse word *dubben* means "to strike" and was given a particular meaning when it was brought into English. A monarch, in the act of naming a person a knight,

would strike that person lightly on the shoulder with a sword, while saying, "I **dub** thee Sir _____," along with the person's name. The word came to mean "to give a title to" and was later broadened to its present, more general, meaning.