

The future of space exploration



1. Test your knowledge about space exploration.

a) How many people are in space right now?

- 1) one 2) between two and four 3) five or more

b) SpaceX is:

- 1) a NASA program 2) a rocket 3) a private company

c) How many planets are there in the Solar System?

- 1) eight 2) nine 3) seven

2. Complete the gaps with the correct words/phrases.

bound	certain	doubt	good chance
likely	no chance	strong likelihood	unlikely will

100% sure

All our computer equipment **will** be replaced in the near future.

If you have personal problems, it's **bound** to affect your work.

After all his hard work, he's **certain** he'll pass his exams.

almost
sure

There is a **good chance** that a recession can be avoided.

Our sales are **likely** to rise next month.

There's a **strong likelihood** that he will run for president next year.

don't think
so

They had begun to **doubt** that it could be done.

The lack of evidence means that the case is **unlikely** to go to court.

There is **no chance** our company will sell more cars.

3. In pairs, discuss how likely the predictions below are. Use the language from the previous exercise.

- Privacy will become a thing of the past.
- By the early 2030s, we will be able to copy human consciousness to a computer.
- Wireless Internet connection will be available anywhere on our planet.
- All forms of transport will eventually become electric.
- The effects of climate change will be irreversible.
- Physical money (coins and notes) won't exist anymore.
- Scientists will unlock the genetic secrets that could allow us to live for centuries, maybe forever.

4. Before watching a [video](https://youtu.be/I7LJluB2CHE) [https://youtu.be/I7LJluB2CHE], match the expressions in bold with their meanings (1-6).

- a) If you **set your sights too low**, you will not be sufficiently challenged and might feel disappointed when you achieve your aim.
- b) We had to stop some flights to Spain over the winter season because they were not commercially **viable** during that time.
- c) The man in the wheelchair insisted that he was **capable** of taking care of himself.
- d) The **boosters** will detach from the rocket at a certain altitude and then return to the launch pad.
- e) The biggest **thrill** is when your team wins a game against their worst rivals.
- f) The latest success of SpaceX may **spell** trouble for other spaceflight companies as they start falling behind.

- 1) device for increasing force or power **d**
- 2) have goals which are not considered difficult to reach **a**
- 3) a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure **e**

- 4) having the ability or quality necessary to do or achieve a specified thing **c**
- 5) mean or have as a result **f**
- 6) financially sustainable **b**

5. Watch the [video](#) (to 03:50) and answer the questions.

- a) How much more cargo than any other rocket can Falcon Heavy carry?

Almost twice as much

- b) What kind of Falcon Heavy features does Elon Musk name?

It's a super heavy class rocket, that's economically viable and can carry people to the Moon

- c) What has been the biggest challenge to make Falcon Heavy fly?

Redesigning the centre core (the middle section)

- d) What is Elon Musk most excited about in terms of that rocket launch?

Inspiring people to get excited about space again

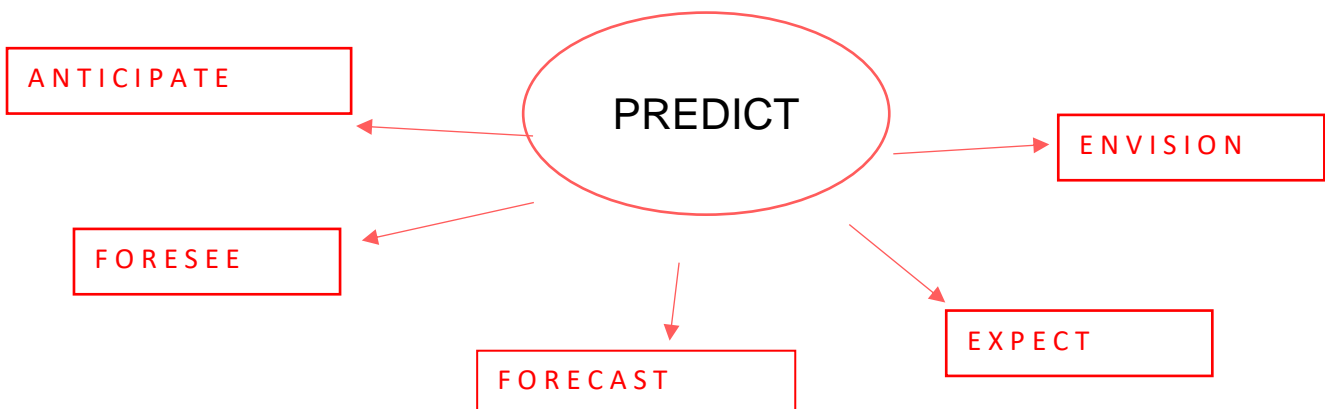
- e) Why is SpaceX a fantastic idea according to Bill Nye?

They want to make rockets like planes – you can use them multiple times

6. One of the interviewees in the video said the following:

"There are two questions we've all asked: where did we come from and are we alone in the universe? And if you want to answer those two questions, you have to explore space."

- Do you believe that these questions can be answered through space exploration?
- Are these questions something that you've ever thought about?
- Does humankind really need answers to these questions?

7. Complete the gaps to create synonyms for the word 'predict'.

8. Use the words from ex. 7 to create 5 predictions about the future of space exploration. Discuss in pairs or groups how likely you think these predictions are.

EXAMPLE:

We predict that humans will have a permanent colony on Mars around 2030.

1.
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2.
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3.
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4.
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5.
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