

Outer Space Vocabulary

Word	Phonetic Transcription	Definition
Air	eə	<i>The invisible gases that surround us on Earth</i>
Asteroid	æstərɔɪd	<i>A small rocky object that orbits the Sun</i>
Astronomy	əstrɒnəmi	<i>The study of stars</i>
Comet	kɒmɪt	<i>A cosmic snowball of frozen gases, rock and dust</i>
Constellation	kɒnstəleɪʃn	<i>A group of stars that appear in a recognizable pattern</i>
Countdown	kaʊntdaʊn	<i>Counting in reverse order to 0</i>
Crater	kreɪtə	<i>A large cavity in the ground left by a celestial object hitting the surface</i>
Dock	dɒk	<i>To join a space station or another spacecraft</i>
Eclipse	ɪklyps	<i>When the light from the Sun is obscured on Earth by the Moon and a shadow is cast</i>
Extraterrestrial	ekstrətɪrɛstriəl	<i>Something from outside of Earth</i>
Galaxy	ɡæləksi	<i>A system of stars held together by gas, dust and gravitational force</i>
Helmet	hɛlmɪt	<i>A protective hat to protect the head and face</i>
Lift off	lɪft ɒf	<i>Vertical take off</i>
Meteor	mi:tɪə	<i>A streak of light when a meteoroid enters Earth's atmosphere</i>
Meteorite	mi:tɪərɪt	<i>The remains when a meteor hits the Earth's surface</i>
Meteoroid	mi:tɪərɔɪd	<i>A small rocky object that orbits the Sun</i>
Milky Way	mɪlki weɪ	<i>Our galaxy</i>
Moon	mu:n	<i>A natural satellite of a planet</i>

Observatory	əbʒɜːvətɹi	A building with large astronomical telescopes to help study space
To orbit	ɔːbɪt	To move round in a curved path (circular)
Outer space	aʊtə speɪs	The area immediately outside the Earth's atmosphere, 62 miles above the surface
Payload	peɪləʊd	Something valuable that goes to space on a rocket e.g. a satellite
Planet	plænɪt	A celestial body orbiting around a star. In our Solar System, there are 8 planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune
Rocket	rɒkɪt	The vehicle that transports astronauts to space
Shooting star	ʃuːtɪŋ stɑː	A streak of light when a meteoroid enters Earth's atmosphere
Solar System	səʊlə sɪstəm	A system where the sun is at the centre and various objects orbit around it
Space suit	speɪs suːt	A special outfit an astronaut wears in space to survive in the conditions
Splashdown	splæʃdaʊn	When a capsule returning from space lands in the sea
Star	stɑː	A hot ball of gases
Sun	sʌn	A large star
Telescope	telɪskəʊp	An optical instrument that makes objects appear nearer
UFO	juː-ɛf-əʊ	Acronym for unidentified flying object. Something flying that cannot be explained
Universe	juːnɪvɜːs	Everything in physical existence