
Today's Headlines:

Hawking backs interstellar travel project

Russia celebrates cosmonaut anniversary

Baby wallaby becomes an internet star

Transcript:

Leading scientists, including Professor Stephen Hawking, are giving their support to an **ambitious** project to send a spacecraft to another solar system. The ship would need to travel trillions of miles – much further than any before – and the plan is to develop a craft about the size of a microchip that could travel at **exceptional** speed.

Russia's been celebrating 55 years since Yuri Gagarin became the world's first spaceman. It was an historic moment and a **triumph** for the Soviet space programme at **the height of** the Cold War. Today astronauts are constantly in orbit on the International Space Station. Some of them did a live link-up with earth to mark the anniversary.

Take a look at how a baby wallaby is **winning hearts** across the internet. Here he is, popping his head out of his mother's pouch for the first time. The joey, from just south of Sydney, was born the size of a jellybean and spent six months inside his mother, Lily's, pouch. He has another three months until he emerges fully and becomes more independent.

Words and phrases and definitions:

ambitious

(here) difficult to achieve

exceptional

extreme; greater than normal

triumph

great achievement

the height of

a time when a situation is most active

winning hearts

getting the affection of people

Watch the video online: <http://bbc.in/23upN6y>

Exercise:

Use one of the words or phrases from Lingohack to complete each of these sentences. Note that you may have to change the form of a word or phrase to complete the sentence correctly.

ambitious / exceptional / triumph / the height of / winning hearts

1. The ferry isn't running today because of the _____ waves caused by last night's storm.
2. At _____ the summer, it can get very hot in the office and we have to open all the windows.
3. I think his plan to sail around the world is very _____ but with enough support he might actually do it!
4. William and Kate are _____ of the people as they continue their tour of India.
5. Residents are saying the council's decision not to build new houses on the park is a _____.

Answers:

1. The ferry isn't running today because of the **exceptional** waves caused by last night's storm.
2. At **the height of** the summer, it can get very hot in the office and we have to open all the windows.
3. I think his plan to sail around the world is very **ambitious** but with enough support he might actually do it!
4. William and Kate are **winning the hearts** of the people as they continue their tour of India.
5. Residents are saying the council's decision not to build new houses on the park is a **triumph**.