

BBC World Service

The story

Scientists at the American space agency NASA say they are beginning to gather data from Mars after successfully landing a probe on the surface of the red planet. The InSight spacecraft survived a perilous descent on Monday and has already sent back its first picture.

Vocabulary

probe

a tool or piece of equipment used for finding information

- NASA's probe will send soil samples back from Mars.
- An internal probe by the police department found evidence of corruption in the force.

touched down

landed

- The rocket touched down at six o'clock in the evening.
- The plane is scheduled to touch down in New York before continuing to Miami.

beating the odds

succeeding in a situation in which success is unlikely

- The oldest horse in the race is beating the odds! He's going to win!
- Despite losing their first few games, they beat the odds and won the league.

Language challenge

The mission to Mars has _____ successful!

- a) be
- b) been
- c) being

Answer

- b) been