



Transcript

The US space shuttle Atlantis will **blast off** for the last time on Friday 8 July ending NASA's 30-year programme.

Four crew members will be **dropping off** a year's worth of supplies at the International Space Station. They'll be **in orbit** for 12 days and travel 6.5 million kilometres during the **sortie**.

In total, 355 astronauts will have flown on the shuttle since the **inaugural** mission in 1981.

Vocabulary

blast off: launch, take off like a rocket

dropping off: delivering

in orbit: in a position in space, going around the earth

sortie: mission

inaugural: first in a series of important events or activities

More on this story: Nasa fixes final shuttle launch date

<http://bbc.in/iKsn4R>

Watch this video online: Space shuttle's final mission

<http://bbc.in/r928V1>

Exercise

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

blast off / dropping off / in orbit / sortie / inaugural

1.

Their work will ensure the good "housekeeping" of the satellites, including the maintenance and correct positioning of the spacecraft _____ .

2.

Speaking at an event in Dakar, Senegal, Luc Gnacadja - a UN desertification expert - said the _____ Africa Drylands Week had ended with a very simple, yet stark, message.

3.

Mr Tito _____ on 28 April 2001, but only after a struggle to get anyone to take him - the US space agency NASA refused on the grounds that he was not a trained astronaut, so it was the Russians who facilitated the trip.

4.

A recycling barn will also be set up for festival goers to _____ cans, bottles and packaging.

5.

Nato says it has carried out over six thousand _____ over Libya since the bombing campaign began nearly two months ago.

Answers

1.

Source: Europe's Galileo sat-nav in big cash boost

<http://bbc.in/jvoqAw>

Their work will ensure the good "housekeeping" of the satellites, including the maintenance and correct positioning of the spacecraft **in orbit**.

2.

Source: UN project shows how trees help halt desertification

<http://bbc.in/jdQvK5>

Speaking at an event in Dakar, Senegal, Luc Gnacadja - a UN desertification expert - said the **inaugural** Africa Drylands Week had ended with a very simple, yet stark, message.

3.

Source: World's first space tourist 10 years on: Dennis Tito

<http://bbc.in/iYrQPT>

Mr Tito **blasted off** on 28 April 2001, but only after a struggle to get anyone to take him - the US space agency NASA refused on the grounds that he was not a trained astronaut, so it was the Russians who facilitated the trip.

4.

Source: Glastonbury Festival goers offered green toilet rolls

<http://bbc.in/jNbHBN>

A recycling barn will also be set up for festival goers to **drop off** cans, bottles and packaging.

5.

Source: On board an RAF spy-plane sortie over Libya

<http://bbc.in/ieP6S2>

Nato says it has carried out over six thousand **sorties** over Libya since the bombing campaign began nearly two months ago.