



Space: the final frontier

David Bowie "Space Oddity":

A – You'll need to find a recording of the song! Listen to it carefully and complete the gaps:

Ground _____ to major Tom
Ground _____ to major Tom
Take your protein pills and put your _____ on
(Ten) Ground control (Nine) to major Tom (Eight)
(Seven, six) Commencing _____ (Five), engines on (Four)
(Three, two) Check _____ (One) and may gods _____ love be with you

This is ground control to major Tom, you've really made the grade
And the papers want to know whose shirts you wear
Now it's time to leave the _____ if you dare

This is major Tom to ground control, I'm stepping through the door
And I'm _____ in a most peculiar way
And the stars look very different today
Here am I floatin' 'round my tin can far _____ the world
Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do

Though I'm past one hundred thousand miles, I'm feeling very still
And I think my _____ knows which way to go
Tell my wife I love her very much, she knows
Ground control to major Tom, your circuits dead, there's something wrong
Can you hear me, major Tom?
Can you hear me, major Tom?
Can you hear me, major Tom?
Can you...
Here am I sitting in my tin can far above the Moon
Planet Earth is blue and there's nothing I can do

B – Choose the best word/phrase below to fill in the gaps:

Circuit board / scrap / space junk / spacecraft / space / floating in orbit / rocket boosters / clean up satellites / junk / bolts / Orbit / debris / Oxygen tanks / cargo

According to NASA, there are now more than 500 working (1) _____, 2,000 defunct satellites, 1,400 used (2) _____, and 1,100 smaller objects (3) _____. Since the beginning of (4) _____ exploration in 1957, more than 137 (5) _____ have exploded or broken apart while in (6) _____ around the Earth. Over time, even working spacecraft lose (7) _____ and screws.

And (8) _____ moves fast-several thousand kilometers per second. At that speed, even the tiniest, (9) _____ can cause huge problems. NASA engineers think an electronic (10) _____ hit the Columbia space shuttle, leaving a 6-millimeter dent in the door of the shuttle's (11) _____ bay. Had the door been open, the speeding projectile could have pierced the shuttle's vulnerable (12) _____.

So much (13) _____ has bounced off the shuttles that NASA has had to replace 63 shuttle windows since 1981. Several thousand near-misses involving (14) _____ and satellites happen every day. NASA fears the situation will get worse. What do you think? How can we (15) _____ space?