

Space Stories – Glossary

announcement noun [countable]

a public or official statement that gives people information about something

astronomy noun [uncountable]

the scientific study of the stars, planets, and other objects in the universe

bolt noun [countable]

a type of screw without a point that is used for fastening things together and that screws into a small metal ring called a nut

contraction noun [uncountable]

the process of becoming smaller

core noun [countable]

the part inside an object that is nearest its centre
the Earth's core

crack verb [transitive]

to damage something so that a line or long narrow hole appears on its surface, but it does not break into pieces

crater noun [countable]

the round hole at the top of a volcano.

debris noun [uncountable]

the broken pieces that are left when something large has been destroyed, especially by an explosion, fire, or accident

end up phrasal verb [intransitive]

to be in a particular place or state after doing something or because of doing it

landing noun [countable/uncountable]

the process of moving a plane down onto the ground at the end of a journey
The pilot was forced to make an emergency landing.

lunar adjective

relating to the moon
a lunar eclipse

mission noun [countable]

a flight into space
the possibility of a manned mission to Mars

net noun [countable/uncountable]

material made of string or rope woven into a loose pattern with spaces in it, or a piece of this

nut noun [countable]

a small metal object with a hole in the middle that you screw a bolt through in order to fasten things together

orbit

the path that is taken by an object moving around a larger object in space
the planet's orbit around the sun

priority noun [countable]

something important that must be done first or needs more attention than anything else

programme noun [countable]

a plan of activities for achieving something

rocket noun [countable]

a vehicle shaped like a tube that travels in space. A rocket is launched when it is sent up from the ground into the sky.

satellite noun [countable]

an object that is sent into space to travel round the Earth in order to receive and send information
a spy/communications/weather satellite

shrink verb [intransitive]

to become smaller in size

site noun [countable]

a place where something happened, especially something interesting or important, or where there is an important building

spacecraft noun [countable]

a vehicle that can travel in space

surface noun [countable]

the top layer or outside part of something
a smooth/rough/hard surface

test flight noun [countable]

an occasion when a plane or rocket (=vehicle for travelling into space) is flown for the first time in order to test its equipment

upside-down adverb

with the top part at the bottom or lower than the bottom part