

Integrating Science and English: Learning About Space Exploration in the Language Classroom

Incorporating science into English lessons gives students real-world connections.

Space exploration, with its sense of wonder, offers a perfect context. By learning about space, students not only expand their vocabulary and grammar but also discover how English can open up worlds—both earthly and beyond.

First, let's begin with the solar system.

Introduce essential vocabulary: planet, orbit, gravity, atmosphere, and asteroid.

Show a solar system diagram and ask students questions like, "Which planet is the largest?" or "What happens when a planet orbits the Sun?" For grammar,

practice comparatives and superlatives:

"Venus is hotter than Earth" or "Jupiter is the biggest planet." Students can create

mini-presentations describing each planet, reinforcing both vocabulary and descriptive language.

Next, move on to space missions. Assign students roles in a “Mission to the Moon” project. Have them plan their mission using future tenses: “We will build a base,” or “We are going to conduct experiments on the Moon.” Encourage them to ask each other: “When will we launch?” or “What will we discover?” This activity immerses them in both planning language and future forms, making grammar meaningful through collaboration.

Now, introduce the second conditional. Ask students to imagine they’re astronauts. Give prompts like, “If I were on Mars, I would...” or “If I were an astronaut, I would...” Students can complete the sentences or ask peers hypothetical questions: “If you were an astronaut,

where would you go?” This builds confidence with imaginative “if” structures while fostering creative thinking.

Finally, engage in a class debate about space ethics. Ask: “Should humans colonize other planets?” Guide students to use modal verbs: “We should protect Earth” or “We might discover new resources.” Prompt students to ask, “What could happen if we don’t explore space?” This helps them argue perspectives while practicing modal verbs in meaningful contexts.

In conclusion, reflect on real-life application. Ask students: “How might learning English help you in a future science career?” By connecting language to the universe, students see English not just as a subject, but as a tool to explore the stars—and their own futures.