

A) Would you like to become an astronaut? What do you think needs to be done for this? What qualities should an astronaut have?



tensions – напряженные отношения

launch – запуск

funding – финансирование

to get along – ладить друг с другом

Two Russian cosmonauts and a US astronaut arrived aboard a Soyuz capsule at the International Space Station (ISS) on Friday, in the only case of cooperation despite deep tensions between Moscow and Washington.

Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko and his companion Nikolai Tchoub, together with NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara, left the Russian Cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, in the middle of the night at 15:44 GMT as scheduled, aboard the Soyuz MS-24 rocket.

The crew arrived at the ISS three hours later, the Russian space agency announced in a press release. This launch comes less than a month after the loss of the Russian lunar probe Luna-25, which crashed into the Moon in August. The failure was a reminder of the difficulties Russia's space sector has faced for years, from a lack of funding to corruption scandals.

"It's a very special moment and a great feeling to be part of something that is bigger than us and that has brought so many people together. I'm excited about this mission," said the 40-year-old O'Hara, for whom this is the first flight into space, during a press conference in Baikonur.

"The atmosphere is good and the crew is ready to carry out all the tasks assigned to them," said Nikolai Chub, also on his first flight. He added that space travel was "a childhood dream" to which he had dedicated "his whole life".

American Loral O'Hara declared that the ISS is "a symbol of peace and cooperation". "Unlike what happens on Earth (...) where nations often don't get along, up there we get along, we understand each other, and we are very sensitive to our relationships. We always take care of each other", added Kononenko.

[\(https://www.agi.it/estero/news/2023-09-16/spazio-due-russi-un-americano-arrivano-stazione-spaziale-internazionale-23062291/\)](https://www.agi.it/estero/news/2023-09-16/spazio-due-russi-un-americano-arrivano-stazione-spaziale-internazionale-23062291/)

C) Discuss in pairs

What helps astronauts get along with each other when they're in space?

What words and actions can help you make friends when you are away from home and there is no one around you who speaks the same language as you?

D) Project work

Find information about international cosmonaut teams: what countries were they from? How long did they stay at the station? What challenges did they face and how did they deal with them? Present the result of your project in the form of a presentation