



Space Oddity – David Bowie - Notes



- **Activity type:** prediction, rhyming pairs, gap fill.
- **Grammar:** Present simple, present continuous.
- **Level:** Elementary/Intermediate.
- **Time:** 20 mins.
- **Note:** This song was released in 1969 to coincide with the Apollo 11 moon landing, and was used by the BBC to accompany its television coverage of the event. It was David Bowie's first hit single, reaching number 5 in the charts. It was rereleased in 1975, giving Bowie his first Number One. He also recorded an Italian version with lyrics by Mogol, called "Ragazzo Solo, Ragazza Sola".

- 1) Write the word **SPACE** on the board. Brainstorm a list of words related to the topic.
- 2) Play the song. Students tick any words from the list that they hear, and note any new ones.
- 3) Write the following words on the board.

blue dare do go know(s) on today Tom way wear

Tell the students to match them in rhyming pairs. Let them work in groups. Do not check their answers at this stage.

Key: *blue - do; dare - wear; go - know; today - way; Tom - on*

- 4) Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Do not play the song again at this stage, but ask them underline all the words related to space (for **key** see highlighted words in complete version of lyrics), and to complete the gaps based on context – remind them that rhyming words occur together!
- 5) Play the song. Students check and correct their answers.
- 6) Sing the song together.



Space Oddity – David Bowie



Ground Control to Major _____

Ground Control to Major _____

Take your protein pills
and put your helmet _____

Ten
Nine
Eight
Seven
Six
Five
Four
Three
Two
One
Lift off

Ground Control to Major _____
Commencing countdown, engines _____

Check ignition
and may God's 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 _____
Now it's time to leave the capsule
if you _____

This is Major Tom to Ground Control
I'm stepping through the door
And I'm floating in a most peculiar _____
And the stars look very different _____

For here
Am I sitting in a tin can
Far above the world
Planet Earth is _____
And there's nothing I can _____

Though I'm past one hundred thousand miles
I'm feeling very still
And I think my spaceship knows which way to _____
Tell my wife I love her very much
She _____

Ground Control to Major Tom
Your circuit's 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 floating round my tin can
Far above the moon
Planet Earth is _____
And there's nothing I can _____.



Space Oddity – David Bowie – Complete



Ground Control to Major Tom
Ground Control to Major Tom
Take your protein pills
and put your **helmet** on

Ten
Nine
Eight
Seven
Six
Five
Four
Three
Two
One
Lift off

Ground Control to Major Tom
Commencing **countdown**, engines on
Check ignition
and may God's 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 **capsule**
if you dare

This is Major Tom to Ground Control
I'm stepping through the door
And I'm **floating** in a most peculiar way
And the **stars** look very different today

For here
Am I sitting in a tin can
Far above 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 **spaceship** knows which way to go
Tell my wife I love her very much
She knows

Ground Control to Major Tom
Your **circuit's** 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 floating round my tin can
Far above the **moon**
Planet Earth is blue
And there's nothing I can do.