



SpaceX vs. Boeing: NASA Astronauts' Return from Space

Description

NASA is currently facing a dilemma regarding the return of two astronauts from the International Space Station. The astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, have been onboard since early June and were initially scheduled for an eight-day mission, which has now extended to possibly eight months. The issue lies with Boeing's Starliner capsule, which has experienced several setbacks.

Boeing's Starliner encountered multiple technical issues, including thruster malfunctions and leaks, during its test flight to the space station. Despite these challenges, the capsule managed to dock safely. However, concerns remain about the thrusters' reliability for the return journey.

While some have raised questions about the astronauts' status, NASA assures that they are safe and have ample supplies aboard the space station. Options are being considered, including a possible return with SpaceX next year.

Boeing remains confident in Starliner's capabilities but is prepared to follow NASA's decision regarding the astronauts' return. Both NASA and Boeing aim to continue using Starliner for future crewed missions, alongside SpaceX.

Overall, the priority is the safety and well-being of the astronauts, as NASA works towards a resolution for the return journey from the International Space Station.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Dilemma** /dɪˈlɛm.ə/ (noun): A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives.
2. **Setback** /ˈsɛt.bæk/ (noun): A reversal or check in progress.
3. **Malfunction** /ˌmælˈfʌŋk.jən/ (noun): Failure to function in a normal or satisfactory manner.
4. **Reliability** /rɪˌlaɪ.əˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The quality of being trustworthy or performing consistently well.
5. **Capacities** /kəˈpæs.ɪ.ti/ (noun): The maximum amount that something can contain or produce.
6. **Resolution** /ˌrɛz.əˈluː.jən/ (noun): A firm decision to do or not to do something.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who are the two astronauts currently facing a dilemma regarding their return from the International Space Station?

- Option: Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams
- Option: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin
- Option: Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova
- Option: Tim Peake and Samantha Cristoforetti

2. What was the initial duration of the mission for Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams?

- Option: 8 days
- Option: 1 month
- Option: 6 months
- Option: 1 year

3. Which company's capsule has been causing issues for the astronauts in their return journey?

- Option: Boeing
- Option: SpaceX
- Option: NASA
- Option: Blue Origin

4. What technical issues did Boeing's Starliner encounter during its test flight?

- Option: Thruster malfunctions and leaks
- Option: Communication breakdown
- Option: Solar panel failure
- Option: Navigation system error

5. Which company is being considered for a possible return trip for the astronauts next year?

- Option: SpaceX
- Option: Blue Origin
- Option: Boeing
- Option: Virgin Galactic

6. What is the main priority for NASA in dealing with the return of the astronauts from the International Space Station?

- Option: Safety and well-being of the astronauts
- Option: Cost reduction
- Option: Speed of the return journey
- Option: Public relations



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams 2. 8 days 3. Boeing 4. Thruster malfunctions and leaks 5. SpaceX 6. Safety and well-being of the astronauts

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is a tool or instrument designed for a particular purpose?
Option: A. Management
Option: B. Device
Option: C. Profitability
Option: D. Resolution
2. Which term refers to the outermost part of the sun's atmosphere?
Option: A. Mesmerizing
Option: B. Coronal
Option: C. Compete
Option: D. Reliability
3. What word describes being attractive or charming?
Option: A. Integrating
Option: B. Engaging
Option: C. Bonuses
Option: D. Dilemma
4. Which term describes a favorable or advantageous circumstance?
Option: A. Malfunction
Option: B. Opportunity
Option: C. Revealed
Option: D. Pricing
5. What is the term used to describe the maximum amount that something can contain?
Option: A. Exclusive
Option: B. Multitasking
Option: C. Capacities
Option: D. Perseid



6. What word indicates that something is limited to a specific individual or group?

- Option: A. Immersive
- Option: B. Exclusive
- Option: C. Setback
- Option: D. Mesmerizing

7. Which term describes an event that hinders progress or success?

- Option: A. Setback
- Option: B. Profitability
- Option: C. Compete
- Option: D. Aurora

8. What word suggests that something is reasonably priced and within reach?

- Option: A. Engaging
- Option: B. Pricing
- Option: C. Affordable
- Option: D. Immersive

9. What is the term for striving to outdo others or to take part in a contest?

- Option: A. Captivating
- Option: B. Compete
- Option: C. Opportunity
- Option: D. Resolution

10. Which word is used to describe a failure in the proper functioning of a device or system?

- Option: A. Multitasking
- Option: B. Malfunction
- Option: C. Development
- Option: D. Pricing

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Continuous _____ is essential for innovation in the tech industry.

12. The team worked together to find a satisfactory _____ to the problem.

13. Companies aim to improve their _____ to ensure long-term success.

14. Determining the right _____ strategy is crucial for product positioning.

15. The virtual reality experience was so _____ that it felt like being in another world.



16. The _____ meteor shower is visible in the night sky every August.
17. People travel to northern regions to witness the breathtaking _____ lights.
18. The speaker was able to _____ the audience with his inspiring speech.
19. Employees were rewarded with performance-based _____ at the end of the year.
20. She faced a difficult _____ when choosing between two appealing job offers.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

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| 21. Intelligence exhibited by machines or software often in contrast to natural intelligence. |
| 22. The process of combining different elements into a harmonious whole. |
| 23. The novel had such a compelling storyline that readers could not put it down. |
| 24. A remarkable event or occurrence that is often observed and studied. |
| 25. The quality of being trustworthy and consistent. |
| 26. The action of solving a problem dispute or contentious matter. |
| 27. The maximum amount that something can contain or produce. |
| 28. An event that hinders progress or causes delays. |
| 29. The secret plan was finally made known to all members of the team. |
| 30. The ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously. |

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. B. Device 2. B. Coronal 3. B. Engaging 4. B. Opportunity 5. C. Capacities 6. B. Exclusive 7. A. Setback 8. C. Affordable 9. B. Compete 10. B. Malfunction

Gap-Fill: 11. Development 12. Resolution 13. Profitability 14. Pricing 15. Immersive 16. Perseid 17. Aurora 18. Captivate 19. Bonuses 20. Dilemma

Matching sentence: 1. Artificial 2. Integrating 3. Captivating 4. Phenomenon 5. Reliability 6. Resolution 7. Capacities 8. Setback 9. Revealed 10. Multitasking



CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

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