

Space Shuttle

2A

"Three, two, one. Liftoff!" There is a loud roar. Outside the space shuttle, the launch pad glows. Inside the shuttle, the astronauts' faces glow. What is happening? The astronauts are on a real space ride. The shuttle blasts into space.

The shuttle blasts off like a rocket. It lands like a jet. It has three parts. They are the **boosters**, the tank and the **orbiter**.

The first part is the boosters. They work with the **main engines**. They blast the shuttle into space. Two minutes later, the boosters fall away. They land in the sea. Ships bring back the boosters. They will be used again.

The next part is the tank. It looks like an orange rocket. It is as tall as a fifteen-storey building. This is the shuttle's fuel tank. It sends fuel to the engines. After eight minutes, it falls away, too. The tank is not

used again. It is the only part that will not be used again.

The last part is the orbiter. The astronauts ride inside it. For now it is their house and their work place. Later it will take them back home to Earth.

The astronauts look out the window. Below the blue Earth is getting smaller. Right now they just enjoy the ride!



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2B

Comprehension Questions

- How many parts make up the space shuttle?
 - two
 - three
 - four
- When the boosters return to Earth, what will happen to them?
 - They will not be used again.
 - They will become a work place.
 - They will be used again.
- What do the **boosters** do?
 - They blast the shuttle into space.
 - They give fuel to the shuttle.
 - They glow.
- What part of the space shuttle falls away first?
 - the orbiter
 - the boosters
 - the tank
- Why is the orbiter the astronauts' house?
 - They live in it while they are in space.
 - They live in it all the time.
 - They live in it during liftoff.