

- a** Read the song lyrics and try to guess where some of the 'space' words go.

capsule circuit /'sɜ:kɪt/ countdown earth (×2)
engine floating (×2) helmet ignition moon
planet (×2) spaceship stars world

Space oddity

Ground Control to Major Tom, Ground Control to Major Tom:

Take your protein pills and put your ¹ _____ on

Ground Control to Major Tom, commencing ² _____,

³ _____'s on

Check ⁴ _____, 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 ⁵ _____ if you dare

This is Major Tom to Ground Control, I'm stepping through the door

And I'm ⁶ _____ in the most peculiar way

And the ⁷ _____ look very different today

For here am I sitting in a tin can, far above the ⁸ _____

⁹ _____ ¹⁰ _____ 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 ¹¹ _____ knows which way to go

Tell my wife I love her very much – she knows

Ground Control to Major Tom

Your ¹² _____'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 ¹³ _____ round my tin can, far above the ¹⁴ _____

¹⁵ _____ ¹⁶ _____ is blue and there's nothing I can do

- b** Listen and complete the song.

- c** Listen again and read the lyrics.
In pairs, answer the questions.

1 What do you hear when Ground Control says 'Commencing countdown...?'

2 Who are Major Tom and Ground Control?

3 What does Ground Control mean by...?

a 'You've really made the grade'

b 'the papers want to know whose shirts you wear'

4 What does Major Tom mean by 'a tin can'?

5 What happens at the end of the song?



Song facts

David Bowie wrote this song in 1969 after seeing the Stanley Kubrick film *2001 – A Space Odyssey* and it was used by the BBC during their coverage of the 1969 moon landing. Major Tom, however, is not based on a real person. In a later song, *Ashes to ashes*, Major Tom appears again and sends a message from space saying, 'I'm happy, hope you're happy too'.