

## 1

**Article :****Japanese Astronaut Noguchi, SpaceX Team Lift Off for International Space Station**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

With astronaut Soichi Noguchi as the first Japanese on board, the new SpaceX Crew Dragon successfully lifted off precisely ontime from the Florida's Kennedy Space Center at 19:27 EST on Sunday, November 15 in Florida, USA, (9:27 A.M. Monday, November 16 in Japan) and is now headed to the International Space Station (ISS).

Noguchi's mission, which also involves three American astronauts, docks at the International Space Station one day later, at 23:00 EST on Monday, November 16 (EST). The mission calls for an extended stay of around six months aboard the ISS.

"We hope to give everyone something to feel encouraged about by showing that the challenge of space exploration can be tackled despite the [pandemic] difficulties," the 55-year-old astronaut of the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in a news conference prior to the departure amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Noguchi's first flight into space was aboard the U.S. Space Shuttle Discovery in 2005, followed by a trip via the Russian Soyuz spacecraft in 2009. His third mission coincides with the first regular U.S.-manned space flight mission to the ISS in nine years and the world's first actual mission of a privately developed spacecraft.

"I am honored to be able to take part in this operation as a Japanese, which marks a historic turning point," he said.

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Training during the coronavirus epidemic had proved to be extremely challenging. Face-to-face training and discussions among the four astronauts were reduced to a minimum, such as extravehicular activities and simulations in preparation for emergencies. The remainder of the training was conducted by remote communication.

Fortunately, the new spacecraft is digitally compatible. Nevertheless, close attention had been paid to minimizing the risk of infection, such as reducing the number of training instructors and requiring frequent physical checkups, according to knowledgeable sources at JAXA.

Looking back on the training, Mr. Noguchi said: “We gave our full attention to doing what we could do at the time, one step at a time in day-to-day training. Miraculously, despite the very strict constraints, we were able to achieve almost 100 percent.”

The launch was initially scheduled for the end of 2019, but was put off for nearly a year. In October, flaws were found in the same engine model as the spacecraft’s, so the lift-off was postponed another two weeks for additional inspections. In that context, the weather delays in the week preceding the launch seem small by comparison.

In consultation with the three American astronauts, the spacecraft was named Resilience.

Mr. Noguchi noted: “We chose the name with the wish that the lives of people all over the world will return to normal as soon as possible. I hope to show by example the power of recovering from adversity by not giving up on space exploration.”

Source: Japanese Astronaut Noguchi, SpaceX Team Lift Off for International Space Station  
<https://japan-forward.com/japanese-astronaut-noguchi-spacex-team-lift-off-for-international-space-station>

## 2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. Involve** (必要なものとして)～を含む、～(人)と関わる、～(人)を巻き込む

You should not be involved in such a risky project.

**2. challenge of** ～の課題、～(すること)の困難

This conference focuses on the challenge of reaching zero emissions in this industry.

**3. take part in** ～(活動やプロジェクトなど)に参加する

All the children took part in the school play.

**4. give one's full attention to** ～～に全神経を集中させる、～に細心の注意を払う、～に真正面から取り組む

Give me 2 minutes to finish my lunch then I can give my full attention to your story.

**5. by comparison** 比較して、比べると

After living in a tropical country for a year, Japan seems cool by comparison.

## 3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How many astronauts are on board the ISS?
2. Is this the first time for Noguchi to flight into space?
3. What did they do to minimize the risk of infection during the training?
4. Why did the launch have to be postponed after nearly a year's delay?

## 4

## 日本語関連記事：

## 野口さん、コロナ禍での出発 新型宇宙船に搭乗「回復する力見せる」

宇宙飛行士の野口聡一さん(55)が日本時間15日、米スペースX社が開発した新型宇宙船「クルードラゴン」に日本人として初めて搭乗し、国際宇宙ステーション(ISS)での約半年間の長期滞在に出発する。新型コロナウイルスの感染拡大に見舞われる中での船出となるが、野口さんは「困難な状況でも宇宙に挑戦する姿から、何かを感じてもらいたい」と話す。

野口さんは2005年の初飛行で米スペースシャトル、09年にロシアのソユーズ宇宙船に搭乗。3度目の今回は9年ぶりに本格運用される米国の有人宇宙飛行で、民間宇宙船による世界初の実用飛行に挑む。「歴史的転換点に日本人として運用に携われるのは大きなメリットだ」と語る。

一方で、コロナ禍の訓練は困難を極めた。対面での訓練や議論は、船外活動や非常事態に備えたシミュレーションなど必要最低限にとどめ、原則リモートに変更。新型宇宙船がデジタル対応だったことが幸いしたが、訓練指導員の人数を減らし、こまめな検査を義務付けるなど感染対策には細心の注意が払われた。

野口さんは「自分たちが今できることに集中して、日々の訓練を地道に一つ一つやってきた」と振り返り、「大変厳しい制約を受けたが、奇跡的にほぼ100%の訓練ができた」と手応えを語る。

一方、当初は昨年末の予定だった打ち上げは1年近く延期に。先月には打ち上げに使う同型ロケットのエンジンの装置に不具合が見つかり、追加点検のためさらに2週間遅れた。

同乗する3人の米国人飛行士と相談し、今回の宇宙船に「レジリエンス(回復力)」と名前を付けた。世界中の人々が一日も早く元の生活に戻れるようにとの願いを込めた。

「宇宙への挑戦をやめず、回復する力を身をもって見せていきたい」

出典：<https://www.sankei.com/life/news/201106/lif2011060025-n1.html>  
野口さん、コロナ禍での出発 新型宇宙船に搭乗「回復する力見せる」