



# SPACE AND LARGE NUMBERS

## I can

- understand the difference between words
- read the text for general information
- give reasons for my opinion
- ask and answer appropriate questions
- demonstrate public-speaking skills
- make people see my point of view

## Russian space station Mir



Three *decades*\* ago, the USSR orbited the first piece of Mir, which is translated from Russian as “peace” or “world”. The February 20, 1986 launch marked the beginning of a special 15-year mission. It was a real breakthrough in space.

Made of seven *major*\* parts, Mir was the first almost permanently inhabited place off-planet. While it was born during the Cold War, Mir was eventually transformed into the largest arena for cooperation in space, paving the way to the International Space Station and the earliest space tourism experiences.

One of the most *remarkable*\* experiments on Mir was the flight of cosmonaut Valery Polyakov, who was sent to the station in 1994. He would not return to Earth until March 23, 1995. While Polyakov never left orbit, he became the first human to live in microgravity long enough to reach Mars – more than a year.

An expert in space medicine himself, Polyakov acted as a scientist and, humorously, his own *guinea pig*\*. His nearly 15-month flight record still stands and is not expected to be broken anytime soon.