

The Lazy Editor

WE LOVE THIS STORY. TOO BAD WE COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO EDIT IT! WILL YOU FIX IT FOR US?



Sneezes? Itches? Full bladder? Uh oh! **BY MACKENZIE CARRO**

DIRECTIONS: Read this article, which contains some truly dreadful mistakes. Then follow the prompts in the box on the next page.

1 There he was, 200 miles above Earth, with nothing but a safety tether keeping him from floating off into space. It was 2009, and astronaut Ricky Arnold was on his first-ever spacewalk, or

extravehicular activity (EVA). He had been outside the International Space Station (ISS) for only a few minutes, but all ready his hands ached inside his thick gloves. He took a sip of water threw the plastic straw in his helmet.

2 Then it happened: The sun began to rise. The stars faded and a brilliant blue filled Arnold's visor: Earth, spinning slowly on it's invisible axis. All

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was dead quiet, accept for the gentle whir of the fan blowing air threw his spacesuit. It was one of the most spectacular sights he had ever seen.

3 The work astronauts do on spacewalks is extremely important. They make improvements to the ISS, conduct experiments, and make repairs. On Arnold's first spacewalk, he and his crew had to install a 16-ton peace of equipment.

4 Spacewalks come with certain dangers, though. Space is the most hostile environment known to humans. Taking a space stroll wearing nothing but the clothes on your back would be dangerous. You would suffocate. Your blood would boil. You would die within minutes.

5 The only thing that stands between an astronaut and the killer vacuum of space is the spacesuit. It is also known as the "Extravehicular Mobility Unit." It is a magnificent piece of equipment. It was developed over decades by scientists and engineers at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It has 14 layers and more than 18,000 pieces. It weighs more than 200 pounds. It costs some \$12 million. It has everything an astronaut needs to stay alive. This is the most important thing about it. It pumps oxygen in and lets carbon dioxide out. (Carbon dioxide is what you exhale; it can be poisonous to breathe in large

quantities of it.) It has a tough shell around the torso that protects against flying debris.

6 The suit also protects astronauts from the extreme temperatures which they encounter in space, which range from 250 degrees Fahrenheit in direct sunlight to 250 degrees *below* zero in the shadows. But while their spacesuits may stop astronauts from roasting or freezing to death, the astronauts can still get rather sweaty. And because spacesuits are used over and over and are difficult to clean, they can get a bit, er, stinky.

7 As for other issues—say, an itchy nose? Astronauts just have to deal. It takes hours to suit up for a spacewalk, so there's no going back unless it's a life-or-death emergency. "We're outside for six to seven hours," says Arnold. "If you have to sneeze, you sneeze. If your nose itches, you find a place in your helmet to scratch it." The microphone in the helmet, that astronauts use to talk to each other and to the ground crew in Houston, Texas, makes a good scratcher. As for bathroom breaks, well, that's what the "maximum absorbency garment" is for! ●

FIND IT/FIX IT

DIRECTIONS: Can you find and fix all the errors in the article? Write the answers on your own paper.

Paragraphs 1, 2, & 3: Spell check won't catch these mistakes. Can you find and correct all six?

Paragraphs 4 & 5: Many of the sentences in these paragraphs have the same structure.

Booorrrring. Please revise to add some variety.

Paragraphs 6 & 7: Our writer is a bit confused about how to use "which" and "that." Please fix two mistakes.

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