

It's becoming a little crowded in space. There is now a record number of 19 people up in the heavens. The record was broken after the three-person crew on board a Russian Soyuz capsule docked at the International Space Station (ISS). On the recent mission were NASA astronaut Don Pettit and Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner. They brought the number of residents on the ISS to 12. Chinese astronauts are also part of the record. They have three "taikonauts" working on the Tiangong Space Station. The remaining four space travellers are part of SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission. That project saw a historic first ever civilian spacewalk last Thursday.

There is a point of contention regarding the recent record. That is over the definition of where outer space starts. NASA and the U.S. military regard the boundary separating Earth's atmosphere and outer space as being 80 km above sea level. With this interpretation, the record for humans in space is 20, set in May 2023 and tied in January of this year. However, the conventional definition of the edge of space is called the Karman Line. The International Aeronautical Federation puts this line at an altitude of 100 km above sea level. The new record uses this definition. The Karman Line is used for legal purposes to differentiate between what constitutes an aircraft and a spacecraft.

What are the good and bad things about living in these places?

	Good Things	Bad Things
Space		
The ISS		
The Moon		
Mars		
A voyage to another galaxy		
Pluto		

**Paragraph 1**

1 the heavens	a.	An astronaut from Russia.
2 crew (noun)	b.	A small container or space where people or things are kept.
3 capsule	c.	A group of people working together, especially on a ship or plane.
4 docked	d.	A person who is not a soldier or part of the military.
5 cosmonaut	e.	The sky or space above Earth.
6 mission	f.	When a vehicle, like a spaceship, joins with another vehicle or station in space.
7 civilian	g.	A special job or task that people are trying to complete.

**Paragraph 2**

8 contention	h.	Establish something like a world record or a best time.
9 boundary	i.	How high something is above the ground.
10 interpretation	j.	Something that is usual or traditional.
11 set (verb)	k.	A line or limit that separates two areas.
12 conventional	l.	To be a part of something or make up a whole.
13 altitude	m.	A disagreement or argument about something.
14 constitute	n.	The way something is understood or explained.