



# Space Communication

Communication is a critical factor in construction and use of the International Space Station. With 16 countries working together, all speaking different languages, communication is vital. One method the countries have developed to solve this challenge is to adopt English as the language of space. However, that doesn't solve the problem on Earth. In order to better understand how this can be a difficult proposition you can do the following activities.

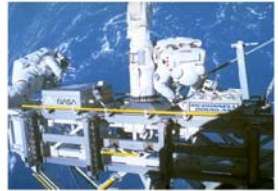
## Activity 1-

**Materials:** cassette tape recorder, cassette tape, pencil, graph paper, and a partner

If you don't have access to a tape recorder, you could write down your directions.

### Procedure:

1. Draw a simple design on the graph paper (example: birdhouse, doghouse, etc).
2. Turn on the tape recorder and record step by step directions for your partner to draw the exact same design in the same place on his/her paper.



**Results:** In order to count your partner's drawing as a success, the design has to be able to be placed on top of the original design and be a perfect match.

**Conclusion:** Discuss what you could have done differently to make following your directions easier or more effective.

**Challenge:** Try recording directions for a more complicated design such as an airplane, rocket, or the space station!

## Activity 2-

How good are you at following directions? Follow the flowcharts below to see if you can calculate the answers.

