Shannon Lucid, Space Pioneer

On September 26, 1996, Shannon Lucid set a record for astronauts. She was the first woman in the world and the first American astronaut to live in a space station for 188 days. For all that time, she shared the Russian Mir Space Station with two Russian cosmonauts.

Shannon Lucid was born in 1943 in Shanghai, where her parents were working. Her family left China and moved to Oklahoma when she was a child, and from the time she was 13 years old, she knew she wanted to be a space pioneer. (1)__________________________, Shannon never forgot her dream.

When she was in high school, she learned to fly a plane, (2)__________________________, She studied chemistry at university. Afterwards, she got a doctoral degree in biochemistry. Finally, she joined the United States astronaut program.

Shannon was extremely pleased to be chosen for a long stay on the Russian Mir Space Station. She thought this was a good chance to work towards another dream. (3)__________________________, she thought she could study how the human body reacts to long trips in space.

While Shannon was on the Mir Space Station, she and the Russians spent almost all their time performing scientific experiments, (4)__________________________. She even taught the Russian cosmonauts to enjoy her favorite American desserts. They especially enjoyed eating Jell-O, a cold, fruit-flavored jelly.

Astronaut Lucid and her husband, an oil company executive, have three children. During her space travel, the children missed her a lot and wanted to stay in touch with her (5)__________________________.

- she earned a pilot’s license soon after her graduation.
- she sent them e-mail messages every day
- she wanted to help people prepare to fly to Mars someday
- her teacher said that it was impossible for a girl to become an astronaut
- she also had enough time to share information about her culture with them
B. Make sentences with the given words and join them by using the expressions from the box to form a paragraph about how to become an astronaut. Don’t forget to make the necessary changes.

- have to / get / university diploma in / math / science
- have to / send / application form / NASA
- If NASA / accept / have to / go / Johnson Space Center / Houston, Texas / for interviews / medical examinations
- receive / basic training / a model of the Space Shuttle / for a month
- learn how to live / work / a weightless environment / there
- start / 8-month / advance training
- take / sixteen different courses / this high-level training.
- become / astronaut

To be an astronaut, a person has to make his decision early in school life and work hard for a long period of time. ____________________________

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