

Professor Mork's Device

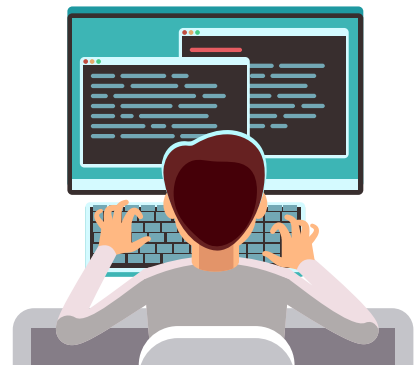
Nobody had really believed that the teleportation device would work when Professor Mork had suggested it. He was known for his crazy ideas. In fact, many of the world's best scientists didn't want to work with him.

The professor said that the device would be far more powerful than anything that had ever been created before. It would be able to transport people to other planets in just a few moments. The professor's dream was to allow everybody in the world to be able to travel to other planets.

It had taken years and years to build. The project had been top-secret, but the launch day was finally here. The professor felt a bizarre mix of fear and excitement. Even he could not be totally sure that it was safe, or that it would definitely work. People across the planet were glued to their screens. They were excited to see whether or not the incredible technology could really work.

The device was made up of four huge metal disks. One was near the ceiling, one was on the ground and two were at either side. The disks were connected to countless computers. There were wires and various gadgets lying all across the floor. There were teams of experts sitting at each one. They were bashing away on their keyboards. They looked very focused.

People from all around the world had wanted to take part in the project. There had been a competition to decide who would be able to take the first trip. The ten lucky winners had been chosen out of hundreds of thousands of people. It had seemed like a once in a lifetime opportunity when they applied, but now most of them looked terrified. They waited nervously in front of the device.



The destination for the first trip was Mars. The participants were wearing high-tech suits to protect them. The outfits had been created to make sure that they could survive in the freezing temperatures of Mars. The outfit would also allow them to breathe. One of the people was given a specially made camera that would be used to show the people back on Earth the Red Planet. It would be broadcast on televisions everywhere once they arrived.

After many hours, the people and the device were ready to go. It was time to launch the device. The people taking part walked nervously onto the gigantic disk. Before they had the chance to regret their decision, the professor gave the order to launch.

In the blink of an eye, all ten of them had vanished. There was no smoke and no noise. They had simply disappeared. The audience waited nervously. For what felt like an eternity, the television screen was blank. There was no trace of them. It felt as though the whole world was holding their breath. Had the cameras failed? Had they made it there?

Then, suddenly, the television screen flickered on. At first, it was hazy and unclear, but gradually the view sharpened. It looked like a huge rocky desert.

The round of applause from everywhere was deafening. Nobody could believe it! It had worked! The other participants put their thumbs up in front of the camera and waved. All ten of them had arrived safely.



Professor Mork had finally proved all the doubters wrong: teleportation was indeed possible.

Questions

03

- 1 What was the name of the professor?
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- 2 'People across the planet were glued to their screens.'
- Which language device is used in this sentence?

- ☐ simile
- ☐ alliteration
- ☐ metaphor
- ☐ personification

- 3 Which statement about the professor is true?

- ☐ The professor was sure that his new technology would be a success.
- ☐ The people watching knew that the professor's invention would not work.
- ☐ The people watching were certain that the technology would work.
- ☐ The professor wasn't totally sure if the device would work.

- 4 Which word in paragraph 4 tells us that there was more than one computer?
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- 5 What does this phrase mean?
- 'They were bashing away on their keyboards.'

- ☐ They were typing very quickly.
- ☐ They were bashing their heads on the keyboards.
- ☐ They were destroying the keyboards.
- ☐ They were bashing the keyboards on their desks.

6 How many people were chosen to be part of the first trip?

7 Why did most of the people look terrified?

- ☐ because they were on TV
- ☐ because the professor scared them
- ☐ because they didn't like the other people
- ☐ because they didn't know if they would be safe

8 What is 'the Red Planet'?

- ☐ Earth
- ☐ The name of the device
- ☐ The name of the largest planet
- ☐ Mars

9 Which fact about the people is true?

- ☐ They only vanished for a moment.
- ☐ They slowly faded away.
- ☐ They vanished one by one.
- ☐ They vanished almost instantly.

10 Why could nobody believe that it had worked?

- ☐ The first attempt failed.
- ☐ They thought the whole thing was a fake.
- ☐ They didn't recognise the people on the screen.
- ☐ They never imagined that teleportation was possible.

Score:

Answers

A

- 1 What was the name of the professor?
Professor Mork
- 2 Which language device is used in this sentence?
☒ metaphor
- 3 Which statement about the professor is true?
☒ The professor wasn't totally sure if the device would work.
- 4 Which word in paragraph 4 tells us that there was more than one computer?
countless
- 5 What does this phrase mean? 'They were bashing away on their keyboards.'
☒ They were typing very quickly.
- 6 How many people were chosen to be part of the first trip?
ten
- 7 Why did most of the people look terrified?
☒ because they didn't know if they would be safe
- 8 What is 'the Red Planet'?
☒ Mars
- 9 Which fact about the people is true?
☒ They vanished almost instantly.
- 10 Why could nobody believe that it had worked?
☒ They never imagined that teleportation was possible.