Welcome to the Solar System

Space Explorers Series (Lesson 1 of 8) | Ages 7–10 | 45–60 minutes

howtoenglishpod.com



1. Look and wonder! What are these young Space Explorers doing? If you had a rocket ship today, where in space would you fly first? Tell your partner two ideas.

2. Meet Our Amazing Sun & Solar System

Our Solar System is a giant space neighborhood. At the very center sits the **Sun**—a huge, glowing star that gives Earth heat and light. About **one million Earths** could fit inside the Sun! The Sun's invisible pulling force, called **gravity**, holds all eight planets in steady paths called **orbits**.

© Gav & Em 2026 | howtoenglishpod.com | SE1



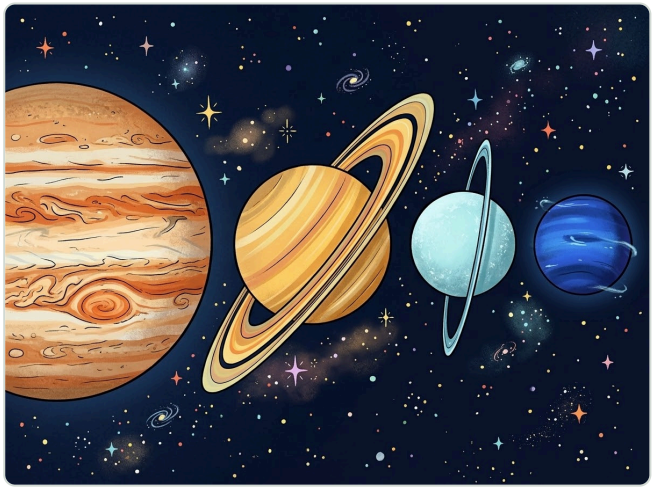
Our Cosmic Line-Up: From closest to farthest from the Sun—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

3. Two Families of Planets: Rocky or Giant?

Scientists sort the eight planets into two families. Look closely at the two pictures below—what differences can you spot?



Rocky Inner Planets (1–4): Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars are smaller worlds with solid, rocky ground.



Giant Outer Planets (5–8): Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are enormous worlds made of swirling gas and ice.

> **Brain Trick — Remember All 8 Planets in Order!**
>
> **M**y **V**ery **E**ducated **M**other **J**ust **S**erved **U**s **N**oodles → *Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.*

Build a Human Solar System



Move Like a Planet! One explorer stands in the middle holding the Sun. Eight explorers hold planet cards in order from #1 to #8 and walk slowly in circles (orbits) around the Sun.

Cut-out Sun and planet cards

Cut along the borders and give one card to each explorer.

Sun At the centre	**Mercury** Planet 1	**Venus** Planet 2
Earth Planet 3	**Mars** Planet 4	**Jupiter** Planet 5
Saturn Planet 6	**Uranus** Planet 7	**Neptune** Planet 8

© Gav & Em 2026 | howtoenglishpod.com | SE1

Junior Space Explorer

Explorer name: _____ **Date:** _____

A. Planet Order Challenge

Write the missing planet names in order from the Sun (1 to 8). Then circle **Rocky** or **Giant**.

#	Planet name	Clue	Planet family
1	Mercury	Closest to the Sun	Rocky / Giant
2		Hottest planet	Rocky / Giant
3		Our home planet	Rocky / Giant
4	Mars	The Red Planet	Rocky / Giant
5		Largest planet	Rocky / Giant
6		Famous for icy rings	Rocky / Giant
7	Uranus	Spins on its side	Rocky / Giant
8		Windy, deep-blue planet	Rocky / Giant

B. Space Detective: True or False?

Read each clue and circle **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

Space clue	Your answer
1. The Sun is a giant glowing star.	TRUE / FALSE
2. Gravity keeps the planets orbiting around the Sun.	TRUE / FALSE
3. Jupiter is a small, rocky planet close to the Sun.	TRUE / FALSE
4. An orbit is the curved path a planet takes around the Sun.	TRUE / FALSE
5. Earth is the third planet from the Sun.	TRUE / FALSE

© Gav & Em 2026 | howtoenglishpod.com | SE1

Junior Space Explorer

C. Invent Your Own Planet Memory Sentence!

Write a funny word starting with each planet's first letter to build your own memory trick.

Letter	Planet	Your memory word
M	Mercury	
V	Venus	
E	Earth	
M	Mars	
J	Jupiter	
S	Saturn	
U	Uranus	
N	Neptune	

D. Keep Talking!

1. Which planet would you send a space robot to explore first? Why?

2. What is one thing you would pack in a suitcase for a trip to Mars?

3. Teach your partner your new planet memory sentence!

Write one cool fact about the Sun or planets to share with your family tonight.

© Gav & Em 2026 | howtoenglishpod.com | SE1

Pacing Guide and Answer Key

Print guide: pages 1–2 for discovery, page 3 for the cut-out cards, pages 4–5 for each learner. Keep this page for the teacher.

Time	Stage	Activity notes
0–8 min	1. Look & Wonder	Show the opening classroom picture. Ask kids what they spot and where they would fly in a rocket.
8–22 min	2–3. Discovery Talk	Use the SE1 slides to introduce the Sun, gravity, orbits, and the Rocky vs. Giant planet families.
22–38 min	4. Human Solar System	One child holds the Sun in the centre. Eight children hold planet cards and walk in orbit circles. Rotate turns.
38–55 min	5. Worksheet & Wrap-Up	Complete sections A–D. Finish by chanting the planet order together and sharing fun memory sentences.

Answer key

A. Planet Order Challenge

Rocky inner planets	Giant outer planets
1. Mercury	5. Jupiter
2. Venus	6. Saturn
3. Earth	7. Uranus
4. Mars	8. Neptune

B. Space Detective

1. True · 2. True · 3. False (Jupiter is a giant outer planet) · 4. True · 5. True.

© Gav & Em 2026 | howtoenglishpod.com | SE1