

# Mars Mania

## Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to reinforce recognition of parts of speech and improve spelling skills, while gaining a greater understanding of Mars.

Students will be able to

1. Decode space-related terms (Crack the Code, Dot-to-Dot).
2. Review parts of speech (Mars Mad Lib).
3. Use adjectives correctly (Design-a-Martian).

## Important Vocabulary/Key Terms (essential terms in bold)

Mars	Rover	Opportunity	Spirit	volcano
crater	water	gullies	rust	sol
planet	Martian	space	<b>noun</b>	<b>verb</b>
<b>adverb</b>	<b>adjective</b>	<b>plural</b>	<b>singular</b>	<b>tense</b>

## Crack the Code (Spelling; Number Patterns)

Decode the words. Then, use the underlined letters to reveal the punch line of the joke.

*\*\* See below for printable activity template.*

## Answer Key

26 2 36 38	Mars
36 30 44 10 36	Rover
30 32 32 30 36 40 42 28 18 40 50	Opportunity
38 32 18 36 18 40	Spirit
44 30 <u>24</u> 6 2 28 30	volcano
6 36 2 40 10 36	crater
46 2 40 10 36	water
14 42 24 24 18 10 38	gullies
36 42 38 40	rust
38 <u>30</u> 24	sol
32 24 <u>2</u> 28 10 40	planet
26 2 36 <u>40</u> 18 2 28	Martian
<u>38</u> 32 2 6 10	space

**Dot-to-Dot** (Spelling)

Fill in the letters that correctly complete each term below. Complete the dot-to-dot by connecting dots that correspond to each of the correct letters.

1. M\_\_rs (a)
2. Ro\_\_er (v)
3. \_\_ppportunity (o)
4. S\_\_irit (p)
5. vo\_\_cano (l)
6. \_\_rater ©
7. \_\_ater (w)
8. g\_\_llies (u)
9. rus\_\_ (t)
10. \_\_ol (s)
11. pla\_\_et (n)
12. \_\_artian (m)
13. spac\_\_ (e)

*\*\* Here, include Mars-related image, with no outline. Add the letters in such a way as to create a dot-to-dot out of the image. Suggested images: a Martian, an astronaut, the planet Mars, a rover.... This is meant to be coded as an interactive, online activity. (Refer the web team, if needed.)*

**Mars Mad Lib** ® (Basic Parts of Speech review)

Discuss the functions of each part of speech. Then, fill in the correct part of speech to create a story.

*\*\* See below for printable activity template.*

**Design-a-Martian** (Using Adjectives)

What do you think Martians might look like? Try creating a Martian, using the chart below. You will see the image of your Martian develop as you decide on your Martian's features. When you've finished, choose to animate or print out your very own Martian!

**Making a Martian**

<b>Arms</b>	Stretchy	Stubby	Straight	Two	Four
<b>Hands</b>	Two	Flat	Hairy	None	Eight
<b>Legs</b>	Long	Skinny	Fat	Three	Grey
<b>Feet</b>	Stinky	Wrinkled	Small	Large	Sweaty
<b>Hair</b>	Curly	Straight	Blue	Short	None
<b>Eyes</b>	Sunken	One	Ten	Open	Dark
<b>Nose</b>	Flat	Red	Large	None	Crooked
<b>Mouth</b>	None	Round	Smiling	Frowning	Small

# CRACK THE CODE

**Directions:** Decode the words given below. Then, use the underlined letters to reveal the punch line of the joke. (If you need help with the code, use the “HINT.”) Try writing your name using this code; or try making up your own code!

26 2 36 38	
36 30 44 10 36	
30 32 32 30 36 40 42 28 18 40 50	
38 32 18 36 18 40	
44 30 <u>24</u> 6 2 28 30	
6 36 2 40 10 36	
46 2 40 10 36	
14 42 24 24 18 10 38	
36 42 38 40	
38 <u>30</u> 24	
32 24 <u>2</u> 28 10 40	
26 2 36 <u>40</u> 18 2 28	
<u>38</u> 32 2 6 10	

HINT

A = 2

B = 4

C = 6

*An astronaut finished his meal at the Moon Café. When the waiter brings a complimentary dessert, the astronaut becomes concerned. “What’s wrong with this ice cream?” he asks. The alien waiter replies, “Nothing is wrong with it, sir. We thought that an Earthling would know that on the Moon, all ice cream f\_\_\_\_\_!”*

# MARS MAD LIB®

**Directions:** Fill in the correct part of speech to create a story about A. Lien's trip into space. Make it silly or serious...it is up to you to decide! Maybe you can even make up your own Mars Mad Libs®!

Millie wants to ride in his \_\_\_\_\_, to visit \_\_\_\_\_. She does not  
*Singular noun* *Proper noun (place)*  
have a driver's license, so she decides to \_\_\_\_\_. When Millie gets  
*Verb (present tense)*  
to \_\_\_\_\_, she is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ of dust  
*Proper noun (place)* *Adjective* *Verb (present tense)* *Singular noun*  
floating overhead. It is a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ cloud that seems to  
*Adjective* *Adjective*  
follow her \_\_\_\_\_. As she walks \_\_\_\_\_ along the \_\_\_\_\_  
*Adverb* *Adverb* *Adjective*  
surface of this \_\_\_\_\_, she notices two \_\_\_\_\_. She  
*Adjective* *Singular noun (place)* *Plural noun*  
remembers that back on Earth, there is only one. (She even  
*Verb (past tense)*  
there once, aboard the space shuttle.) \_\_\_\_\_, Millie snaps out of  
*Adverb*  
her reverie, as she \_\_\_\_\_ into a large \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_  
*Verb (present tense)* *Singular noun* *Singular noun*  
that was seemingly following her \_\_\_\_\_, as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ sees  
*Verb (past tense)* *Singular noun*  
Millie fall and \_\_\_\_\_ to help her. At first, Millie was \_\_\_\_\_  
*Verb (past tense)* *Adverb*  
\_\_\_\_\_. But soon, she realized she didn't need to be. Millie and her  
*Adverb*  
new \_\_\_\_\_ vowed to never lose touch. And since Millie's return to  
*Singular noun*  
Earth, they have emailed each other \_\_\_\_\_ !  
*Adjective* *Singular noun*