

CHAPTER 1

“I **promise** we will send someone to Mars! Our country will be the first to send someone there.”

That was how it started. The president told the whole country. He said it on television to millions of people. They were sending a person to Mars.

“But, sir, we can’t do it!” said the country’s top scientist, Louis Martin.

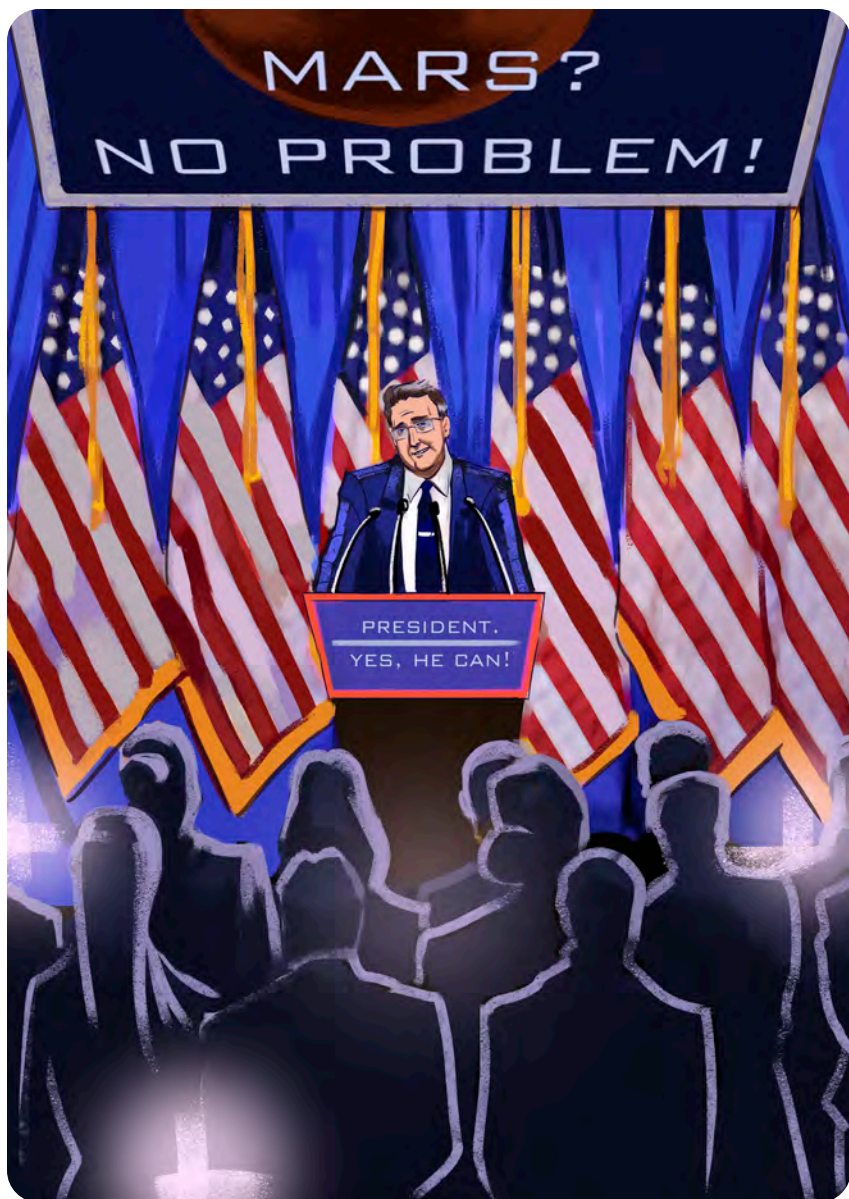
“Yes, we can,” **replied** the president. “I don’t care how much it costs. I will give you all the money you need. You must make it happen.”

“But, Mr President. We can’t!” said Louis. “It’s too difficult.”

“Look!” said the president. “I have told the country we will do it. That means we must do it. I don’t want to look stupid in front of everyone. You have to do it! I will give you everything you need.”

promise (verb) to tell someone that you will do something

reply (verb) to answer; to respond



"I promise we will send someone to Mars!" said the president.

A few months later, Louis was at the space centre. He was working on the problem. He had the best scientists in the country. He had lots and lots of money. Everyone was excited. The president was in every newspaper. He was on lots of television programmes. He was talking about Mars. He was very **popular**.

“I have the best scientist in the WORLD!” said the president. “He has the best team of people in the WORLD! We will do this! I have promised the people of this country that we will travel to Mars and so we will!”

A big television company asked Louis to go on their programme. He said no. They asked him many times. He **refused** every time. One day, the telephone rang in his office. It was the president.

“I want you to go on television,” said the president.

“But I’m a scientist,” said Louis. “I understand science. I don’t understand television. I’m not good on television. Why don’t you go on the programme? You’re very good on television.”

popular (adjective) liked or enjoyed by many people

refuse (verb) to not accept

The president was **cross**.

“They want to speak to you,” he said. “You must go on the programme. I want everybody to listen to our best scientist. I want everybody to believe us. I need our best scientist to tell them that we are going to Mars!”

“Do you want me to lie?” said Louis, “because we cannot go to Mars. I have told you many times. It’s too difficult. It is impossible. There are too many problems.”

There was **silence** for a few moments. Then the president said, “Your job is to find the answers to these problems. We are going to Mars, and you are going on the television programme!”

cross (adjective) angry

silence (noun) a lack of sound or noise; complete quiet

CHAPTER 2

“Welcome to this evening’s programme. I’m David Watson, and we have a very special guest tonight. Please welcome Louis Martin, the scientist who will send the first person to Mars!”

The **audience clapped**. They were excited. Louis walked to a chair and sat down. The television lights were hot. Louis was nervous. This was his first time on television.

“We also have Jane Williams,” said David. “Jane is also a scientist, but she **disagrees** with Louis. She says we cannot go to Mars because it’s too difficult.”

The audience clapped as Jane sat opposite Louis. The two scientists looked at each other. Louis was now very nervous. He did not know another scientist was on the programme.

“I agree we cannot go to Mars,” thought Louis. “What can I say if she says we can’t go to Mars? She is **correct!**”

“So, Louis, how is your work going?” asked David. “When will we arrive on Mars?”

audience (noun) a group of people who watch, read or listen to something

clap (verb) to hit your hands together

disagree (verb) to have a different opinion

correct (adjective) true or accurate; without mistakes



*“So, Louis. How is your work going?” asked David.
“When will we arrive on Mars?”*

“Well,” said Louis, “we’re working hard. We think we can arrive on Mars in the next two years. Everything is going very well.”

“That’s complete **rubbish!**” said Jane. “It is impossible to go to Mars. We cannot do it. The president doesn’t know anything about space! All he knows is money. He thinks money is the answer to everything. If we spend enough money, we can get there. But it isn’t true!”

“Well, that’s interesting,” said David. “Louis, do you believe we can go to Mars?”

Louis was worried. The other scientist was correct. It was impossible to go to Mars. He did not know how to reply.

“Well, of course, there are problems,” he said. “That’s why we have a big team of scientists. We’re finding the answers to those problems.”

“That’s not true!” said Jane. She looked very angry. “It’s not possible to go to Mars. You know it’s impossible. The president is lying. You are lying as well!”

rubbish (noun) stupid or wrong (e.g. ideas)

“Why is it impossible?” asked David.

“Because we can get to Mars,” explained Jane, “but we cannot return. We don’t know how to do that. We don’t know how to leave Mars. We cannot carry enough fuel to **escape** from Mars.”

“Louis, do you agree or disagree with Jane?” asked David.

Louis did not know what to say. Everybody waited for his answer.

“Well...”

Everybody was quiet. Everybody was waiting for his **explanation**.

“I said we could go to Mars,” said Louis. “I didn’t say we could come back.”

escape (verb) to get away

explanation (noun) the act of giving details or information about something

VOCABULARY QUIZZES

Quiz-1

Complete the sentences with the words below.

reply	disagreed	rubbish	promised	pretended
waved	rocket	audience	explanation	impossible

1. He asked a question and waited for a
2. She performed in front of a live
3. She to help me with my project, but she didn't.
4. In the play, they to be different people.
5. The girl lifted the toy and blasted into space.
6. Mum looked at the broken vase and said to the children, "I need an" "
7. It's to finish the project in two months. We need more time.
8. As the Queen went past, she at us.
9. I shook my head because I with her.
10. It's annoying that no one has collected the yet.

Quiz-2

Choose the correct answer.

1. They asked her difficult questions in the
a) subject b) answer c) interview
2. Mars is the fourth in our solar system.
a) space b) planet c) rocket
3. They are sending him to prison because he is a
a) criminal b) guard c) scientist
4. I was, so I drank the whole bottle.
a) thirsty b) hungry c) satisfied
5. They wanted to keep fit, so they ran around the park for
a) job b) rubbish c) exercise
6. The screw came loose.
a) eventually b) yet c) after
7. The scientists with each other because they disagreed.
a) told b) replied c) argued
8. I got a letter from my aunt and I am eager to
a) reply b) agree c) refuse
9. "You to me!" he shouted angrily.
a) sang b) lied c) believed
10. "Be and don't give up!" her father said to her.
a) upset b) scared c) brave