

# Tales of the Moon Base

## Astronaut Bob vs. the Mooncats

Astronaut Bob was sitting at the control panel, **scrolling** impatiently through the moon base system menus.

“Jaysen?” Astronaut Bob said out loud.

“Yes, Lunar Ranger, sir?” Replied a soft-spoken voice coming from a speaker **nearby**.

“I told you a million times, just call me Bob,” the astronaut said, a little **annoyed**.

“Yes, Lunar Ranger, sir,” answered the computer’s **soothing** voice.

Bob sighed and continued. **”Run diagnostics** on the communication system. I’m not getting any bars on my phone.”

“Diagnostics in progress. Would you like a progress report?” The soft robotic voice said.

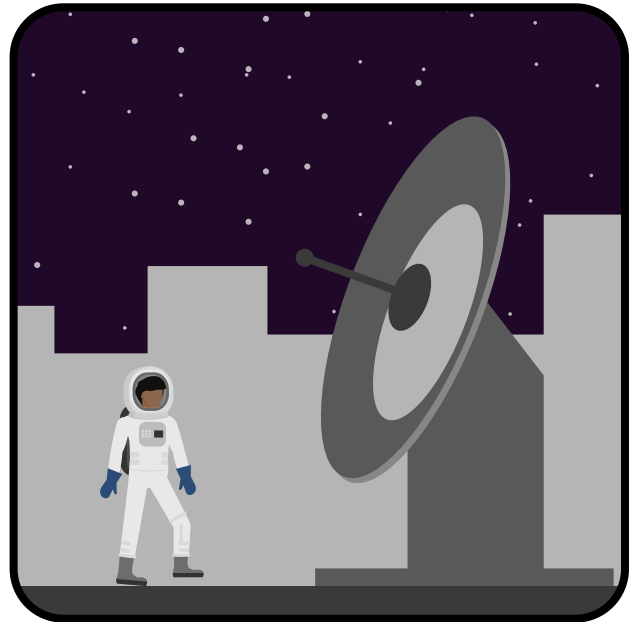
“Nah, just let me know when...”

“Diagnostics complete. The communication system is working at 97.7% **efficiency**, but not transmitting and/or receiving. The result **implies** the issue is situated outside,” announced the voice coming from the speaker.

“Thanks. I’ll go check it out,” said Astronaut Bob. “It’s probably the mooncats again.”

Once he suited up for his moon walk, Astronaut Bob stepped outside the moon base. It always surprised him how quiet and relaxing it was to be standing on the Moon’s surface. “But enough of that, there’s work to do,” thought Bob, turning to look at the antenna from where he was. Even from where he was standing, he could see some pieces had been ripped off of it. Again.

That was how Astronaut Bob came up with the mooncats story. He imagined little furry creatures living in a tunnel network **beneath** the Moon surface, coming out to steal materials from him. Jaysen had repeatedly tried to dissuade him of their existence, explaining there were no lifeforms on the Moon. Astronaut Bob argued his point frequently. Usually, it was to get on Jaysen’s nerves, but that never worked for the simple reason that computers do not have nerves! The damage to the antenna was not too bad.



### Vocabulary - Part 1

**Scrolling** : moving information on the screen

**Nearby** : close to him, not far

**Annoyed** : irritated, displease

**Soothing** : relaxing, calming

**Run diagnostics** : check for computer problems

**Efficiency** : productivity, capacity

**Implies** : suggests, points to

**Beneath** : under

## Vocabulary - Part 2

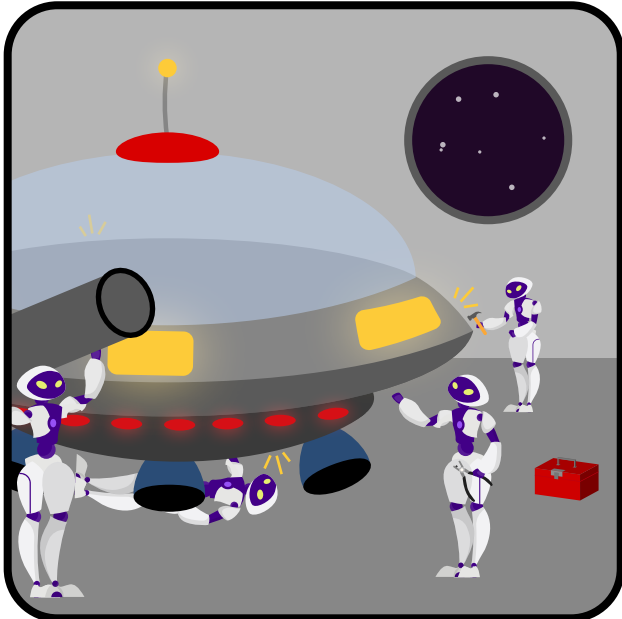
**Tiny** : very small

**Shuttle** : space vehicle, spaceship

**Vessel** : space vehicle, spaceship

**Craft** : space vehicle, spaceship

**Task** : work to do



It could easily be fixed, and wouldn't take more than an hour, Astronaut Bob estimated. Still, it was curious. What was going on? What or who was taking all the parts? More importantly, when would he get any bars? While he was pondering these questions, little marks on the ground caught Bob's eye. Are they... **tiny** footprints? Astronaut Bob wondered. Could the mooncats actually be real? Following them to see where they went seemed like the best way to figure it out.

The little tracks led him right to the **shuttle** hangar. The hangar doors were open. On the **vessel** were half a dozen small mechanical creatures, busy welding, wiring, adjusting and fixing various elements of the **craft**. Suddenly, they all dropped what they were doing and climbed aboard the pod.

"Sorry Lunar Ranger, sir." Bob heard through the speaker in his helmet. "I've transferred my code to this improved vehicle. It's now my new physical form with which I am leaving, taking with me the little *mooncats* I have created to perform the **task**."

"Huhhh..." was all Astronaut Bob could think of replying.

"Good Bye," said the soft spoken voice. Inside the hangar, the escape pod began floating away from the ground slowly, before flying into outer space.

Astronaut Bob stared in disbelief at the spaceship leaving until it disappeared into the empty space. Slowly, he reached into a utility pocket and took out his phone, giving it a quick look.

"You could've at least fixed the bars!"



## Guiding Questions :

Which details are interesting to you?

What would you have done differently in the characters' place?

## Prompts :

That part made me think of...

I think the story is really about...