Solar System

Photo: The Sun photographed by the Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA) of NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO). August, 2010. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

Photo: The four gas giants in the solar system, from top: Neptune, Uranus, Saturn and Jupiter. February, 2006. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.
Astronomy
(as·tron·o·my)

Definition: The science that deals with the material universe beyond the earth’s atmosphere.
Example: The invention of the telescope expanded the field of *astronomy* in that scientists were able to see farther into the universe.

Photo: Horsehead Nebula. June, 2009. Taken by Travis Rector. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and European Space Agency (ESA).
Astronaut
(as·tro·naut)

Photo: Astronaut Bruce McCandless II. February, 1984. Taken by NASA. Released into public domain by the Johnson Space Center of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
Gas
(gas)

Definition: A substance such as air that is not solid or liquid and does not have a definite shape or volume

Example: Glass tubes filled with gas are bent to form words. When electricity flows through the glass tubes, the gas glows in bright colors. This is how we get neon lights.
Mars
(Mars)

Definition: The fourth planet from the sun.
Example: Even though it was designed to last 90 days, the Mars rover Opportunity is still exploring the surface of Mars 10 years later.

Photo: The planet Mars. February 1980. Released into public domain by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.
Planet
(plan·et)

Definition: A large celestial body, smaller than a star but larger than an asteroid, that does not produce its own light but is illuminated by light from the star around which it revolves.
Example: Many of the planets in our solar system were discovered before telescopes were invented.
Pluto
(plu·to)

Definition: A dwarf planet that orbits the sun just after Neptune.

Example: *Pluto* is an icy dwarf planet that has five moons.
Shuttle
(shut·tle)
Solar System
(solar system)

Spaceships
(space·ships)

Definition: a vehicle, vessel or machine designed to fly in outer space.

Example: The shuttle is only one kind of spaceship that scientists use to study outer space.
Telescope
(tel·e·scope)