Claim / Data Point Supported	Citation	Link
Starliner launched June 5, 2024, from Cape Canaveral with Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore	The New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/science/boeing-starliner-space-station-docking.html
Helium leak detected before launch; two more leaks found during flight	Aviation24	https://www.aviation24.be/space/starliner/boeing-starliner-mission-encounters-new-issues-helium-leaks-en-route-to-iss/
Helium is used to pressurize propellant for Starliner's thrusters	The New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/science/boeing-starliner-space-station-docking.html
Starliner's first two crewed launch attempts were scrubbed due to technical issues (oxygen valve, ground launch sequencer)	CBC News	https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/boeing-starliner-docking-1.7226731
Five of 28 thrusters malfunctioned before docking; four jets failed, two restored via hot-fire tests	Space.com	https://www.space.com/boeing-starliner-astronaut-test-flight-thrusters-helium-leaks
Docking delayed by over an hour; successful docking at 1:34 p.m. ET	The New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/06/science/boeing-starliner-space-station-docking.html
Starliner's mission was to validate systems for regular ISS crew transport (Crew Flight Test)	NASA	https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-boeing-welcome-starliner-spacecraft-to-earth-close-mission/
NASA decided to return Starliner to Earth without crew due to ongoing thruster/helium issues	NASA	https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-decides-to-bring-starliner-spacecraft-back-to-earth-without-crew/
Williams and Wilmore's mission extended from 8 days to 9 months due to Starliner's technical problems	Reuters	https://www.reuters.com/technology/space/spacex-nasa-set-astronaut-flight-that-will-retrieve-stuck-astronauts-2025-03-12/
NASA required astronauts to stay aboard ISS until Crew-10 arrived to maintain staffing	Reuters	https://www.reuters.com/technology/space/spacex-nasa-set-astronaut-flight-that-will-retrieve-stuck-astronauts-2025-03-12/
Starliner's uncrewed return to Earth in September 2024	SatNews	https://news.satnews.com/2024/09/08/nasa-and-boeing-welcome-the-uncrewed-starliners-safe-return-to-earth/
Williams and Wilmore returned to Earth March 18, 2025, aboard SpaceX Crew Dragon with Nick Hague and Aleksandr Gorbunov	NBC News	https://www.nbcnews.com/science/space/live-blog/nasa-astronauts-boeing-starliner-spacex-splashdown-watch-live-updates-rcna196871
Splashdown and recovery procedures for Crew Dragon (fast boats, recovery ship, medical checks)	Travel Noire	https://travelnoire.com/stranded-nasa-astronauts-earth-return
ISS modular structure, pressurized modules, international collaboration (NASA, Roscosmos, ESA, JAXA, CSA)	ESA	https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Human_and_Robotic_Exploration/International_Space_Station/International_Space_Station_legal_framework
ISS life support: water recovery, urine processor, air revitalization, CO2 removal	NASA (PDF)	https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/104840main_eclss.pdf
ISS orbits at ~408 km (254 miles) altitude	Wikipedia: International Space Station	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station
Modular design allows ISS to be upgraded/expanded (e.g., Nauka module in 2021)	Wikipedia: International Space Station	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Space_Station
ISS cost shared: NASA ~$4B/year, ESA nations ~$8B total over 30 years	ESA	https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Human_and_Robotic_Exploration/International_Space_Station/International_Space_Station_legal_framework
Water recycling on ISS recovers up to 98% of water; sending 0.5L water to space costs ~$2,500	NASA (PDF)	https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/104840main_eclss.pdf
Microgravity on ISS: 89% of Earth's gravity, continuous freefall causes weightlessness	DW	https://www.dw.com/en/sunita-williams-butch-wilmore-how-space-affects-the-body/a-69993144
ISS enables research in fluid physics, combustion, material science, biology, health	Economic Times	https://economictimes.com/news/new-updates/sunita-williams-homecoming-nine-months-in-zero-gravitysunita-williams-prepares-for-a-gravity-shocking-return-as-family-nervously-waits-for-her-return/articleshow/119125379.cms
Williams and Wilmore completed over 900 hours of research, 150+ experiments during 9 months	Economic Times	https://economictimes.com/news/new-updates/sunita-williams-homecoming-nine-months-in-zero-gravitysunita-williams-prepares-for-a-gravity-shocking-return-as-family-nervously-waits-for-her-return/articleshow/119125379.cms
Key experiments: microgravity biology, plant growth, microalgae for oxygen, fire spread (SOFIE-RTDFS), water recovery, microbial tracking, exercise devices	OpenTools.ai	https://opentools.ai/news/nasa-astronauts-sunita-williams-and-barry-wilmore-unveil-insights-from-9-month-iss-stay
Microgravity effects: bone/muscle loss, fluid shifts, cardiovascular adaptation, radiation exposure	ABC News	https://abcnews.go.com/US/health-impacts-9-months-space-2-nasa-astronauts/story?id=119924697
NASA's decision to delay return was for crew safety, not politics	FactCheck.org	https://www.factcheck.org/2025/03/the-facts-behind-the-delayed-return-of-u-s-astronauts/
ISS crew rotation constraints: minimum staffing required for maintenance and safety	Reuters	https://www.reuters.com/technology/space/spacex-nasa-set-astronaut-flight-that-will-retrieve-stuck-astronauts-2025-03-12/