

Space Shuttle (Space Transportation System, STS)

A partially-reusable low-Earth-orbit spaceplane. Crewed by 7. Operated from 1981-2011 by NASA, launched from KSC and initially landed at Edwards AFB, then landings were moved to the runway at KSC.

Four components:

- The Orbiter
- The External Tank
- 2 Solid Rocket Boosters

There were a total of six named Shuttles.

- *Enterprise* (landing body only; named for the starship of a classic TV show)
- *Columbia* (destroyed during re-entry, 2003)
- *Challenger* (destroyed during ascent, 1986)
- *Discovery* (retired 2011)
- *Atlantis* (retired 2011)
- *Endeavor* (retired 2011)

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