

How to Fix Your Spaceship

What was that? Something just hit my ship. It must have been a meteor from that meteor shower I accidentally flew through. I knew I should have paid more attention in Spaceship Operations class. Oh, no! There's smoke coming out of the back. The steering wheel's not working. I'm going to crash!

Yup, I definitely crashed. I don't even know where I am. What am I going to do? Mom's going to be so mad.

The Guide

Wait, I do remember one thing from class! There's a Galactic Guide in here somewhere. Here it is! *How to Fix Your Spaceship After a Crash Landing*. It says, "If you happen to be a young alien who crashed your spaceship accidentally, and you own this handy guide, you are in luck! Follow these 10 simple steps to get yourself soaring into space again - and out of trouble with Mom."

Ten Simple Steps

The first step is to unbuckle my seatbelt and check for injuries. "If there are any injuries, please refer to the guide *How To Fix Your Body After A Crash Landing*." I don't seem to be oozing, and I still have all six legs, three arms, four eyes and two antennae. Whew! I'm fine.

Okay, the next step says, "Repeatedly press the 'Start' button with all of your eyes closed." Let's give it a try.

Not Going Outside

Drat! It's not working. I guess it's time to move on to step three. "Abandon ship and find a friendly native to give the ship a shove while you repeat step two. (Tip: You can tell a native is friendly if it is not shooting at you or trying to eat you.)" This guide is crazy! I can't go out there; I don't even know what sort of creatures live on this planet. What if they try to eat me? I think I'll just skip this step.

Okay, the next one says, "Using whatever mode of transportation your body is equipped for, walk, crawl, slither or hover around the outside of the ship to look for damage." Yeah right, I am not getting out of this spaceship! I guess I can skip steps five and six since they require going outside too.

Step seven really isn't helpful at all: "If your ship was built before humans discovered aliens, give up and hitch a ride home." It's good advice, but who even flies a spaceship that old anymore?

Okay, now here's a step I can work with: "Sit in front of the ship and discuss the problem with the machine. Open-ended questions may be helpful." I ask the ship how it is feeling, but there's no answer; that can't be good. What am I supposed to do now?

Step nine says, "If your ship does not respond, resort to yelling while waving all your appendages." It says all appendages, so that makes a total of nine for me. I'll just lay on my back and start waving them all.

If All Else Fails

I'm exhausted! Five minutes of waving all my arms and legs and still no help. There's only one step left, I really hope it works. "If all else fails, give the ship a little kick. This works especially well if you have 12 or more feet."

BANG! BOOM! WHACK! Take that you old broken spaceship!

BEEP, BOOP, BEEP, BOOP, VAROOM!

Onto the Next Problem

Hooray! It worked! Now, if I could only figure out how to hide the damage from Mom. I wonder if there's a Galactic Guide for that? I should check the library of Galactic Guides right here in the cockpit:

How To Distinguish Food From Filth - don't need this one.

How To Speak Fluently In Any Language. Nope.

How To Hide Spaceship Damage From Your Parents. I knew it! Time to get to work.

