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The International Space Station (ISS) stands as one of humanity’s most remarkable achievements in space exploration. Orbiting approximately 408 kilometers above Earth, this marvel of engineering serves as a laboratory, observatory, and home for astronauts from around the world. To truly appreciate its complexity and functionality, it's essential to understand the various parts that make up the ISS and their specific roles. In this article, we will provide detailed instructions on how to label the space station, highlighting its main components and their designated locations to foster a better understanding of this incredible orbital structure.

Understanding the Structure of the International Space Station

The ISS is a modular structure composed of interconnected sections, each serving unique purposes. Its design allows for expansion and upgrades, enabling continuous enhancements over time. Before labeling, familiarizing yourself with the core modules and components is helpful. The main parts include laboratory modules, living quarters, solar arrays, truss segments, docking ports, and external payloads.

Key Components of the International Space Station

Main Modules and Sections

- Unity Module (Node 1): The first American module, serving as a passageway connecting various parts.
- Zarya Module: The first module launched, providing propulsion and power.
- Destiny Laboratory: The primary US research laboratory.
- Columbus Laboratory: The European Space Agency's research module.
- Kibo Laboratory: Japan's contribution, including scientific payloads.
- Russian Orbital Segment (ROS): Comprising modules like Zvezda, Poisk, and Rassvet.

Structural Components

- Truss Segments: The backbone holding solar arrays and radiators.
- Solar Arrays: Large panels capturing solar energy to power the station.
- Radiators: Cooling systems dissipating heat generated inside the station.