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Level 4 – 8th April 2024

Rockets and planes chase the solar eclipse

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

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Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

Pilots have chased a total eclipse of the sun. It happened while people in North America looked at this rare celestial event. NASA sent high-altitude planes with special sensors and instruments to gather information from the eclipse. Pilots flew 15,240 meters high to get a view of the corona – the sun's outer surface. NASA also fired rockets into Earth's upper atmosphere to try to find out about some of the sun's mysteries.

A total solar eclipse blocks the sun, and momentarily turns day to night. Totality means the sun's corona is a million times dimmer than the sun. A solar astrophysicist explained that: "Total solar eclipses let us study and see the corona in ways that just would not be possible at any other time." Solar eclipses often confuse animals. They wake up nocturnal animals, and make birds fall silent. Motorists should slow down as visibility can change.

Sources: <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/04/06/world/total-solar-eclipse-science-newsletter-wt-scn/index.html>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/06/april-total-solar-eclipse-2024-monday-time-path-glasses/73192667007/>
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/why-these-scientists-fly-all-over-the-world-to-study-the-suns-corona-during-total-solar-eclipses>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. rare celestial | a. surface |
| 2. high- | b. find out |
| 3. gather information | c. event |
| 4. get a view | d. mysteries |
| 5. the sun's outer | e. altitude planes |
| 6. fired rockets into Earth's | f. from the eclipse |
| 7. try to | g. upper atmosphere |
| 8. some of the sun's | h. of the corona |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A total solar eclipse | a. animals |
| 2. momentarily turns | b. times dimmer |
| 3. the sun's corona is a million | c. slow down |
| 4. a solar | d. silent |
| 5. let us study and see the | e. astrophysicist |
| 6. They wake up nocturnal | f. blocks the sun |
| 7. make birds fall | g. corona |
| 8. motorists should | h. day to night |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

Pilots have (1) _____ eclipse of the sun. It happened

while people in North America looked at this (2) _____.

NASA sent high-altitude planes (3) _____ and

instruments to gather information from the eclipse. Pilots flew 15,240

meters high to get a view of the corona – the

(4) _____. NASA also (5) _____

Earth's upper atmosphere to try to find out about some of

(6) _____.

A total solar eclipse blocks the sun, and (7) _____ to

night. Totality means the sun's corona is a (8) _____

than the sun. A solar astrophysicist explained that: "Total solar eclipses let

us study and see the (9) _____ that just would not be

possible at any other time." Solar eclipses often confuse animals. They

(10) _____ animals, and make (11) _____.

Motorists should slow (12) _____ can change.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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ECLIPSES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about eclipses in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2404/240408-solar-eclipse-4.html>

Write about **eclipses** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.
