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**Level 0 – 29th September, 2022**

## **NASA spacecraft hits asteroid in Earth-protection test**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-0.html>

### **Contents**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| The Reading          | 2 |
| Phrase Matching      | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill   | 4 |
| No Spaces            | 5 |
| Survey               | 6 |
| Writing and Speaking | 7 |
| Writing              | 8 |

**Please try Levels 1, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-0.html>

Hollywood makes movies about asteroids destroying Earth. NASA may soon be able to protect Earth. Its new spacecraft (DART) could change an asteroid's direction so that it doesn't hit Earth. DART crashed into the centre of the asteroid at 24,000 kph. We will find out in a few weeks if the asteroid's direction changed.

DART is the first of many "planetary protection missions". NASA joked about the death of the dinosaurs. It wants "a better chance than the dinosaurs had 65 million years ago". All the dinosaurs could do was to "look up and say, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA said we could protect ourselves from a dangerous asteroid.

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/sep/26/nasa-spacecraft-asteroid-crash-planetary-defense-test>  
<https://www.fox13now.com/news/national/nasa-ready-to-see-if-crashing-a-spacecraft-can-alter-asteroids-path>  
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/nasa-successfully-smacked-its-dart-impactor-spacecraft-into-an-asteroid-231706710.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-0.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Hollywood                | a. to protect Earth |
| 2. asteroids destroying     | b. changed          |
| 3. NASA may soon be able    | c. into the centre  |
| 4. change an asteroid's     | d. Earth            |
| 5. DART crashed             | e. a few weeks      |
| 6. at 24,000                | f. direction        |
| 7. We will find out in      | g. makes movies     |
| 8. the asteroid's direction | h. kph              |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. DART is the first of           | a. of the dinosaurs |
| 2. planetary protection           | b. ourselves        |
| 3. the death                      | c. to look up       |
| 4. It wants a better              | d. asteroid         |
| 5. 65 million                     | e. missions         |
| 6. All the dinosaurs could do was | f. years ago        |
| 7. we could protect               | g. many             |
| 8. a dangerous                    | h. chance           |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-0.html>

Hollywood (1) \_\_\_\_\_ asteroids destroying Earth.

NASA (2) \_\_\_\_\_ able to protect Earth. Its new

spacecraft (DART) (3) \_\_\_\_\_ asteroid's direction

so that it (4) \_\_\_\_\_. DART crashed into the

centre of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ 24,000 kph. We will find out

in a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the asteroid's direction changed.

DART is the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ "planetary protection

missions". (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the death of the dinosaurs.

It wants "(9) \_\_\_\_\_ than the dinosaurs had 65

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ ". All the dinosaurs could do was to

"look (11) \_\_\_\_\_, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA said we

could protect (12) \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous asteroid.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-0.html>

Hollywood makes movies about asteroids destroying Earth. NASA may soon be able to protect Earth. Its new spacecraft (DART) could change an asteroid's direction so that it doesn't hit Earth. DART crashed into the center of the asteroid at 24,000 kph. We will find out in a few weeks if the asteroid's direction changed. DART is the first of many "planetary protection missions". NASA joked about the death of the dinosaurs. It wants "a better chance than the dinosaur had 65 million years ago". All the dinosaurs could do was to "look up and say, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA said we could protect ourselves from a dangerous asteroid.

# ASTERIODS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-0.html>

Write five GOOD questions about asteroids 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<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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) \_\_\_\_\_

