

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 4 – 27th June, 2022

Five planets line up "like string of pearls"

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

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-4.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 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

Twitter



twitter.com/SeanBanville

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-4.html>

Five planets have lined up in a space event called a conjunction. We could see Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn without a telescope. The rare planetary conjunction was best before dawn, about an hour before sunrise. An astronomer said it was, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". She was very happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to see. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet."

This month's conjunction was special because the planets appeared in the same order they are from the sun. Saturn was the farthest away and Mercury was nearest. This conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. The next conjunction will be in August 2040. Another astronomer said the conjunction was best on Friday morning as a crescent moon joined the five planets. She called it a "delightful sight".

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-61910977>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/06/17/5-planets-align-morning-sky/7660250001/>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/planets-align-2022-five-mercury-venus-mars-jupiter-saturn-2022-06-24/>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Five planets have lined | a. to the horizon |
| 2. The rare planetary | b. to see |
| 3. best before | c. at seeing Mercury |
| 4. an hour | d. conjunction |
| 5. spread out from close | e. twinkling planet |
| 6. She was very happy | f. before sunrise |
| 7. It is very satisfying | g. up in a space event |
| 8. this faint | h. dawn |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. This month's conjunction was | a. nearest |
| 2. the planets appeared | b. moon |
| 3. Saturn was the | c. on Friday morning |
| 4. Mercury was | d. sight |
| 5. all have different orbits | e. farthest away |
| 6. said the conjunction was best | f. special |
| 7. a crescent | g. of the sun |
| 8. She called it a delightful | h. in the same order |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-4.html>

Five planets (1) _____ in a space event called a conjunction. We (2) _____, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn without a telescope. (3) _____ conjunction was best before dawn, about an (4) _____. An astronomer said it was, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". She was very (5) _____ Mercury, which is usually hard to see. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this (6) _____."

This month's conjunction was special because the planets appeared in the (7) _____ are from the sun. Saturn was (8) _____ and Mercury was nearest. This conjunction is rare because the five planets all have (9) _____ the sun. The next conjunction will be in August 2040. Another astronomer said the (10) _____ on Friday morning as (11) _____ joined the five planets. She called it (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-4.html>

Five planets have lined up in a space event called a conjunction. We could see Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn without a telescope. The rare planetary conjunction was best before dawn, about an hour before sunrise. An astronomer said it was, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". She was very happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to see. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet. This month's conjunction was special because the planets appeared in the same order they are from the sun. Saturn was the farthest away and Mercury was nearest. This conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. The next conjunction will be in August 2040. Another astronomer said the conjunction was best on Friday morning as a crescent moon joined the five planets. She called it a "delightful sight".

PLANETS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about planets 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) _____

Five planets line up "like string of pearls" – 27th June, 2022
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

