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Level 5 – 27th June, 2022

Five planets line up "like string of pearls"

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-5.html>

Five planets in our solar system have lined up in a celestial event called a conjunction. All across the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen without a telescope. The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear skies before dawn. A weather website said the best time to view it was about an hour before sunrise. An astronomer said it was, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". She was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to see. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet."

The next conjunction will not be visible from Earth for another 20 years. The next one will be August 2040. This month's one was special because the planets appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun. Saturn was the farthest away and Mercury was nearest. Another astronomer said the conjunction was made better on Friday morning as a crescent moon joined the five planets. She called it a "delightful sight". The conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. Mercury takes 88 days to orbit the sun, while Saturn takes 29 years.

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-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Five planets in | a. planet |
| 2. a celestial event | b. skies before dawn |
| 3. Saturn could be seen | c. view it |
| 4. visible in clear | d. to see this |
| 5. the best time to | e. without a telescope |
| 6. spread out from close | f. our solar system |
| 7. It is very satisfying | g. to the horizon |
| 8. this faint twinkling | h. called a conjunction |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The next conjunction will not be | a. sight |
| 2. in the order they are positioned | b. farthest away |
| 3. Saturn was the | c. to orbit the sun |
| 4. Mercury | d. visible from Earth |
| 5. a crescent | e. orbits of the sun |
| 6. She called it a delightful | f. was nearest |
| 7. the five planets all have different | g. moon |
| 8. Mercury takes 88 days | h. from the sun |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-5.html>

Five planets in (1) _____ have lined up in a celestial event called a conjunction. All across the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen (2) _____. The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear (3) _____. A weather website said the best time to view it was about an (4) _____. An astronomer said it was, "like a string of pearls spread out from close (5) _____". She was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to see. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this (6) _____."

The next conjunction will not (7) _____ Earth for another 20 years. The next one will be August 2040. This month's one was special because the planets appeared (8) _____ they are positioned from the sun. Saturn was (9) _____ and Mercury was nearest. Another astronomer said the conjunction was made better on Friday morning as a (10) _____ the five planets. She called it a "delightful sight". The conjunction (11) _____ the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. Mercury takes 88 days to (12) _____, while Saturn takes 29 years.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2206/220627-planets-5.html>

Five planets in our solar system have lined up in a celestial event called a conjunction. All across the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen without a telescope. There are planetary conjunctions visible in clear skies before dawn. A weather website said the best time to view it was about an hour before sunrise. An astronomer said it was, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". She was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to see. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet." The next conjunction will not be visible from Earth for another 20 years. The next one will be August 2040. This month's one was special because the planets appeared in the order they are repositioned from the sun. Saturn was the farthest away and Mercury was nearest. Another astronomer said the conjunction was made better on Friday morning as a crescent moon joined the five planets. She called it a "delightful sight". The conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. Mercury takes 88 days to orbit the sun, while Saturn takes 29 years.

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) _____

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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) _____

