

# Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

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

[breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html](http://breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html)

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

[www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean\\_banville\\_lessons.html](http://www.freeeslmaterials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html)

**Level 6 – 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.html>

### Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	15
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	16
Vocabulary	4	Spelling	17
Before Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	18
Gap Fill	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	19
Match The Sentences And Listen	7	Circle The Correct Word	20
Listening Gap Fill	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	21
Comprehension Questions	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	22
Multiple Choice - Quiz	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	23
Role Play	11	Free Writing	24
After Reading / Listening	12	Academic Writing	25
Student Survey	13	Homework	26
Discussion (20 Questions)	14	Answers	27

**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

**Twitter**



[twitter.com/SeanBanville](https://twitter.com/SeanBanville)

**Facebook**



[www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176](https://www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176)

# THE ARTICLE

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

Five major planets in our solar system lined up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen with the naked eye (without the need for a telescope). The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear skies before dawn. The AccuWeather website said the best time to view this event was about an hour before sunrise. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as being, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to spot. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet."

AccuWeather said a conjunction in this order would not be visible from Earth again for another 20 years. The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this planetary event was special because the planets appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun, with Saturn being the farthest away and Mercury the nearest. Another astronomer, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was noteworthy on Friday morning as a crescent moon accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was 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/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. PLANETS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about planets. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

planets / solar system / weekend / celestial event / Mars / dawn / pearls / twinkling / conjunction / order / Earth / astronomer / moon / sun / delightful / orbit / Saturn

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. SCHOOL SUBJECT:** Students A **strongly** believe astronomy should be a school subject for all students; Students B **strongly** believe otherwise. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. FIVE PLANETS:** What do you know about these planets? What do you want to know about them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What I Know	What I Want to Know
Mercury		
Venus		
Mars		
Jupiter		
Saturn		
Uranus		

**5. SOLAR:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "solar". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. SPACE:** Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Solar systems
- Asteroids
- Black holes
- Comets
- Shooting stars
- The moon
- The sun
- Galaxies far, far away

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. celestial     | a. Vision without the help from a telescope, microscope, or other device.                                  |
| 2. conjunction   | b. Of a sight, smell, or sound that is barely noticeable.  |
| 3. the naked eye | c. Positioned in or relating to the sky, or outer space.   |
| 4. dawn          | d. The action or an instance of two or more events or things happening at the same point in time or space. |
| 5. horizon       | e. The first appearance of light in the sky before sunrise.  |
| 6. faint         | f. The line at which the earth's surface and the sky appear to meet.                                       |
| 7. twinkling     | g. Shining with a gleam that keeps quickly changing from bright to not bright.                             |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. astronomer   | h. Arrangement of things in a straight line or in correct positions.       |
| 9. noteworthy   | i. An expert in or student of the science of the planets and space.        |
| 10. crescent    | j. Was present or happened at the same time as something else.             |
| 11. accompanied | k. Charming.   |
| 12. alignment   | l. Worth paying attention to; interesting or significant.                  |
| 13. delightful  | m. One complete circuit of a planet or spacecraft around the earth or sun. |
| 14. orbit       | n. A curved shape, like a quarter moon.                                    |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The planets that were in line were small, unimportant ones. **T / F**
2. People needed a telescope or binoculars to see the planets. **T / F**
3. The best time to see the line of planets was early in the morning. **T / F**
4. An astronomer said she was happy she could see the planet Mercury. **T / F**
5. There will not be another conjunction for another 200 years. **T / F**
6. Saturn is the planet that was farthest away. **T / F**
7. A full moon joined the alignment of five planets. **T / F**
8. It takes Mercury 29 years to orbit the sun. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>major</b>       | a. coincided with |
| 2. <b>celestial</b>   | b. daybreak       |
| 3. <b>naked</b>       | c. impressive     |
| 4. <b>dawn</b>        | d. planetary      |
| 5. <b>faint</b>       | e. charming       |
| 6. <b>positioned</b>  | f. rotation       |
| 7. <b>noteworthy</b>  | g. arranged       |
| 8. <b>accompanied</b> | h. important      |
| 9. <b>delightful</b>  | i. unclear        |
| 10. <b>orbit</b>      | j. bare           |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Five major planets in our solar  | a. a delightful sight   |
| 2. a celestial event                | b. before sunrise       |
| 3. seen with the naked              | c. twinkling planet     |
| 4. about an hour                    | d. from the sun         |
| 5. satisfying to see this faint     | e. called a conjunction |
| 6. It said this planetary           | f. orbit the sun        |
| 7. in the order they are positioned | g. eye                  |
| 8. crescent                         | h. event was special    |
| 9. She said the alignment was       | i. moon                 |
| 10. Mercury takes 88 days to        | j. system               |

# GAP FILL

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

Five major planets in our solar system (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen with the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ eye (without the need for a telescope). The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear skies before (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The AccuWeather website said the best time to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ this event was about an hour before sunrise. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as (5) \_\_\_\_\_, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the (6) \_\_\_\_\_". Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to spot. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint (8) \_\_\_\_\_ planet."

*naked*  
*twinkling*  
*dawn*  
*hard*  
*lined*  
*being*  
*horizon*  
*view*

AccuWeather said a conjunction in this (9) \_\_\_\_\_ would not be visible from Earth again for another 20 years. The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this (10) \_\_\_\_\_ event was special because the planets appeared in the order they are (11) \_\_\_\_\_ from the sun, with Saturn being the farthest away and Mercury the nearest. Another (12) \_\_\_\_\_, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was (13) \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday morning as a (14) \_\_\_\_\_ moon accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was a "(15) \_\_\_\_\_ sight". The conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. Mercury takes 88 days to (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the sun, while Saturn takes 29 years.

*astronomer*  
*order*  
*crescent*  
*positioned*  
*orbit*  
*planetary*  
*delightful*  
*noteworthy*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) lined up in a row over the weekend in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a cerebral event
  - b. a celestial event
  - c. a celeriac event
  - d. a clerical event
- 2) The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. skies before dawn
  - b. Skypes before dawn
  - c. skews before dawn
  - d. skies before dawn
- 3) like a string of pearls spread out from close \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to the horizons
  - b. to the hooray zone
  - c. to the horizon
  - d. to the hooray zones
- 4) Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. hard to spot
  - b. hard to swat
  - c. hard to slot
  - d. hard to shot
- 5) She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. faint twinkling planet
  - b. feint twinkling planet
  - c. feigned twinkling planet
  - d. infant twinkling planet
- 6) AccuWeather said a conjunction in this order would not be \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. visible by Earth
  - b. visible from Earth
  - c. visible as Earth
  - d. visible at Earth
- 7) The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this \_\_\_\_\_ special
  - a. planetarium event was
  - b. plant-eating event was
  - c. planet tree event was
  - d. planetary event was
- 8) Another astronomer, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. connection was noteworthy
  - b. conjunction was noteworthy
  - c. conviction was noteworthy
  - d. injunction was noteworthy
- 9) a crescent moon accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a deli thoughtful site
  - b. a dill light full sight
  - c. a delightful site
  - d. a delightful sight
- 10) The conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different \_\_\_\_\_ sun
  - a. orb bits of the
  - b. or bits of the
  - c. orbits of the
  - d. awe bit soft the

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Five major planets in our (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen with (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (without the need for a telescope). The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The AccuWeather website said the best time to view this event was about an (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as being, "like a string of pearls spread out from close (5) \_\_\_\_\_". Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to spot. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see (6) \_\_\_\_\_ planet."

AccuWeather said a conjunction (7) \_\_\_\_\_ would not be visible from Earth again for another 20 years. The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this (8) \_\_\_\_\_ special because the planets appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun, with Saturn being (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and Mercury the nearest. Another astronomer, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was noteworthy on Friday morning as (10) \_\_\_\_\_ accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits of the sun. Mercury takes 88 (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the sun, while Saturn takes 29 years.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What kind of event does the article call the conjunction?
2. What does the article say the conjunction could be seen with?
3. When was the best time to see the conjunction?
4. What did an astronomer say the conjunction was close to?
5. What planet did the astronomer say was faint and twinkling?
6. When will the next conjunction be?
7. Which of the planets was the farthest away in the line?
8. What was the conjunction joined by on Friday morning?
9. What planet takes 88 days to orbit the sun?
10. How long does it take Saturn to orbit the sun?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What kind of event does the article call the conjunction?
  - a) a once-in-a-lifetime event
  - b) an amazing event
  - c) a celestial event
  - d) a heavenly event
- 2) What does the article say the conjunction could be seen with?
  - a) the naked eye
  - b) a friend
  - c) a telescope
  - d) a conjunction viewer
- 3) When was the best time to see the conjunction?
  - a) December
  - b) before dawn
  - c) midnight
  - d) 3:43pm
- 4) What did an astronomer say the conjunction was close to?
  - a) infinity and beyond
  - b) the International Space Station
  - c) collapse
  - d) the horizon
- 5) What planet did the astronomer say was faint and twinkling?
  - a) Saturn
  - b) Mars
  - c) Mercury
  - d) Neptune
- 6) When will the next conjunction be?
  - a) August, 3040
  - b) August, 2040
  - c) August, 4040
  - d) August, 8040
- 7) Which of the planets was the farthest away in the line?
  - a) Venus
  - b) Mars
  - c) Mercury
  - d) Saturn
- 8) What was the conjunction joined by on Friday morning?
  - a) the International Space Station
  - b) a crescent moon
  - c) astronauts
  - d) the Northern Lights
- 9) What planet takes 88 days to orbit the sun?
  - a) Saturn
  - b) Mercury
  - c) Venus
  - d) Mars
- 10) How long does it take Saturn to orbit the sun?
  - a) 29 years
  - b) 88 days
  - c) 2 years
  - d) 365 days

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Asteroids**

You think asteroids are the most interesting things about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): black holes, planets or comets.

## **Role B – Black Holes**

You think black holes are the most interesting things about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): asteroids, planets or comets.

## **Role C – Planets**

You think planets are the most interesting things about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): black holes, asteroids or comets.

## **Role D – Comets**

You think comets are the most interesting things about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): black holes, planets or asteroids.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'planet' and 'pearl'.

<b>planet</b>	<b>pearl</b>
---------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• major</li><li>• parts</li><li>• clear</li><li>• hour</li><li>• close</li><li>• faint</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• again</li><li>• 2040</li><li>• farthest</li><li>• moon</li><li>• different</li><li>• 88</li></ul>
--	---

# PLANETS SURVEY

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

# PLANETS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'planet'?
3. What do you know about our solar system?
4. What's your favourite planet?
5. How interested are you in celestial events?
6. What do you know about Saturn?
7. Do you prefer dawn or dusk?
8. What do you think of looking at the horizon?
9. How do you feel when you see stars in the sky?
10. Would you like to see Earth from space?

*Five planets line up "like string of pearls" – 27th June, 2022*  
Thousands more free lessons at [breakingnewsenglish.com](http://breakingnewsenglish.com)

---

# PLANETS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'pearl'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you know about the sun?
15. Should humans try to get to planets like Saturn?
16. What's your favourite phase of the moon?
17. When was the last time you saw a delightful sight?
18. How big is the universe?
19. What are the benefits of studying astronomy?
20. What questions would you like to ask the astronomers?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © breakingnewsenglish.com 2022

-----

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Five major planets in our solar system (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen with the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ eye (without the need for a telescope). The rare planetary conjunction was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in clear skies before dawn. The AccuWeather website said the best time to view this event was about an hour (4) \_\_\_\_\_ sunrise. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as being, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the (5) \_\_\_\_\_". Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to (6) \_\_\_\_\_. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet."

AccuWeather said a conjunction (7) \_\_\_\_\_ this order would not be visible from Earth again for another 20 years. The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this (8) \_\_\_\_\_ event was special because the planets appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun, with Saturn being the farthest away and Mercury the nearest. Another (9) \_\_\_\_\_, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday morning as a crescent moon accompanied the five planets. She said the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ was a "delightful sight". The conjunction is rare because the five planets all have different orbits (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the sun. Mercury takes 88 days to orbit the sun, while Saturn takes 29 years.

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |                 |                |                |                |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) mined       | (b) pined      | (c) lined      | (d) dined      |
| 2.  | (a) naked       | (b) shirtless  | (c) nude       | (d) bare       |
| 3.  | (a) visible     | (b) vision     | (c) visor      | (d) visibly    |
| 4.  | (a) before      | (b) afore      | (c) fore       | (d) therefore  |
| 5.  | (a) vertical    | (b) horizon    | (c) parallel   | (d) diagonal   |
| 6.  | (a) speck       | (b) pimple     | (c) acne       | (d) spot       |
| 7.  | (a) at          | (b) by         | (c) in         | (d) as         |
| 8.  | (a) planetarium | (b) planets    | (c) planed     | (d) planetary  |
| 9.  | (a) astronomer  | (b) astrologer | (c) astronaut  | (d) asteroid   |
| 10. | (a) noted       | (b) noteworthy | (c) notarial   | (d) notching   |
| 11. | (a) confinement | (b) alignment  | (c) refinement | (d) complement |
| 12. | (a) over        | (b) under      | (c) of         | (d) above      |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. in a eectslial event
2. without the need for a ltcseoep
3. The rare ojucnctnoin was visible
4. sraonomter Professor Lucie Green
5. spread out from close to the irozhon
6. see this faint wiktilnng planet

## Paragraph 2

7. this lnpteary event
8. in the order they are oipoitnsed
9. creuMry the nearest
10. a rscecent moon
11. ccmanapioed the five planets
12. the lgamniert was a "delightful sight"

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) before sunrise. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as being, "like
- ( **1** ) Five major planets in our solar system lined up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event
- ( ) AccuWeather said a conjunction in this order would not be visible from Earth again for
- ( ) called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be
- ( ) a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". Professor Green was particularly happy at
- ( ) seen with the naked eye (without the need for a telescope). The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear
- ( ) skies before dawn. The AccuWeather website said the best time to view this event was about an hour
- ( ) nearest. Another astronomer, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was noteworthy on Friday morning as a crescent
- ( ) appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun, with Saturn being the farthest away and Mercury the
- ( ) another 20 years. The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this planetary event was special because the planets
- ( ) moon accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was a "delightful
- ( ) seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to spot. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet."
- ( ) 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.

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. our in system planets up . Major lined solar
2. the be with Saturn could seen naked eye .
3. planetary The in skies . clear visible was conjunction
4. was Professor Mercury . particularly seeing at happy Green
5. It's to faint satisfying twinkling this planet . see
6. years . for another Not from 20 Earth visible
7. from order sun . The the positioned they are
8. said alignment She a the delightful sight . was
9. orbits of the have different all Planets sun .
10. days 88 Mercury to takes the orbit sun .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Five *major / majority* planets in our solar system lined up *in / on* a row over the weekend in a *celestial / cerebral* event called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be *seeing / seen* with the naked eye (without the *need / neediness* for a telescope). The rare planetary *preposition / conjunction* was visible in clear skies before dawn. The AccuWeather website said the best time to view this event was about an hour before *sunrise / sunset*. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as being, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the *horizon / horizontal*". Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually *hardly / hard* to spot. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this *faint / feint* twinkling planet."

AccuWeather said a conjunction in this *disorder / order* would not be visible from Earth again for *another / further* 20 years. The next *time / dimension* it will happen will be August 2040. It said this *plantation / planetary* event was special because the planets appeared in *an / the* order they are positioned from the sun, with Saturn being *the / a* farthest away and Mercury the nearest. Another astronomer, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was noteworthy on Friday morning *has / as* a crescent moon accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was a "delightful *sight / site*". The conjunction is *rare / rarified* because the five planets all have different orbits *of / at* the sun. Mercury takes 88 days to orbit the sun, while Saturn takes 29 years.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

F\_v\_ m\_j\_r pl\_n\_ts \_n \_\_r s\_l\_r syst\_m l\_n\_d \_p \_n \_  
r\_w \_v\_r th\_ w\_\_k\_nd \_n \_ c\_l\_st\_\_l \_v\_nt c\_ll\_d \_  
c\_nj\_nct\_\_n. \_n m\_ny p\_rts \_f th\_ w\_rld, M\_rc\_ry,  
V\_n\_s, M\_rs, J\_p\_t\_r \_nd S\_t\_rn c\_\_ld b\_ s\_\_n w\_th  
th\_ n\_k\_d \_y\_ (w\_th\_\_t th\_ n\_\_d f\_r \_ t\_l\_sc\_p\_).  
Th\_ r\_r\_ pl\_n\_t\_ry c\_nj\_nct\_\_n w\_s v\_s\_bl\_ \_n cl\_\_r  
sk\_\_s b\_f\_r\_ d\_wn. Th\_ \_cc\_W\_\_th\_r w\_bs\_t\_ s\_\_d th\_  
b\_st t\_m\_ t\_ v\_\_w th\_s \_v\_nt w\_s \_b\_\_t \_n h\_\_r  
b\_f\_r\_ s\_nr\_s\_. \_str\_n\_m\_r Pr\_f\_ss\_r L\_c\_\_ Gr\_\_n  
d\_scr\_b\_d th\_ \_v\_nt \_s b\_\_ng, "l\_k\_ \_ str\_ng \_f  
p\_\_rls spr\_\_d \_\_t fr\_m cl\_s\_ t\_ th\_ h\_r\_z\_n".  
Pr\_f\_ss\_r Gr\_\_n w\_s p\_rtc\_l\_rly h\_ppy \_t s\_\_ng  
M\_rc\_ry, wh\_ch \_s \_s\_\_lly h\_rd t\_ sp\_t. Sh\_ s\_\_d: "\_t  
\_s v\_ry s\_t\_sfy\_ng [t\_] s\_\_ th\_s f\_\_nt tw\_nkl\_ng  
pl\_n\_t."

\_cc\_W\_\_th\_r s\_\_d \_ c\_nj\_nct\_\_n \_n th\_s \_rd\_r w\_\_ld  
n\_t b\_ v\_s\_bl\_ fr\_m \_\_rth \_g\_\_n f\_r \_n\_th\_r 20  
y\_\_rs. Th\_ n\_xt t\_m\_ \_t w\_ll h\_pp\_n w\_ll b\_ \_\_g\_st  
2040. \_t s\_\_d th\_s pl\_n\_t\_ry \_v\_nt w\_s sp\_c\_\_l  
b\_c\_\_s\_ th\_ pl\_n\_ts \_pp\_\_r\_d \_n th\_ \_rd\_r th\_y \_r\_  
p\_s\_t\_\_n\_d fr\_m th\_ s\_n, w\_th S\_t\_rn b\_\_ng th\_  
f\_rth\_st \_w\_y \_nd M\_rc\_ry th\_ n\_\_r\_st. \_n\_th\_r  
\_str\_n\_m\_r, Dr D\_\_n\_ H\_nn\_k\_\_n\_n, s\_\_d th\_  
c\_nj\_nct\_\_n w\_s n\_t\_w\_rthy \_n Fr\_d\_y m\_rn\_ng \_s \_  
cr\_sc\_nt m\_\_n \_cc\_m\_p\_n\_\_d th\_ f\_v\_ pl\_n\_ts. Sh\_ s\_\_d  
th\_ \_l\_gnm\_nt w\_s \_ "d\_l\_ghtf\_l s\_ght". Th\_  
c\_nj\_nct\_\_n \_s r\_r\_ b\_c\_\_s\_ th\_ f\_v\_ pl\_n\_ts \_ll h\_v\_  
d\_ff\_r\_nt \_rb\_ts \_f th\_ s\_n. M\_rc\_ry t\_k\_s 88 d\_ys t\_  
\_rb\_t th\_ s\_n, wh\_l\_ S\_t\_rn t\_k\_s 29 y\_\_rs.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

five major planets in our solar system lined up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event called a conjunction in many parts of the world mercury venus mars jupiter and saturn could be seen with the naked eye without the need for a telescope the rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear skies before dawn the accuweather website said the best time to view this event was about an hour before sunrise astronomer professor lucie green described the event as being like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon professor green was particularly happy at seeing mercury which is usually hard to spot she said it is very satisfying to see this faint twinkling planet

accuweather said a conjunction in this order would not be visible from earth again for another 20 years the next time it will happen will be august 2040 it said this planetary event was special because the planets appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun with saturn being the farthest away and mercury the nearest another astronomer dr diana hannikainen said the conjunction was noteworthy on friday morning as a crescent moon accompanied the five planets she said the alignment was 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

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Five major planets in our solar system lined up in a row over the weekend in a celestial event called a conjunction. In many parts of the world, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn could be seen with the naked eye (without the need for a telescope). The rare planetary conjunction was visible in clear skies before dawn. The AccuWeather website said the best time to view this event was about an hour before sunrise. Astronomer Professor Lucie Green described the event as being, "like a string of pearls spread out from close to the horizon". Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury, which is usually hard to spot. She said: "It is very satisfying [to] see this faint twinkling planet." AccuWeather said a conjunction in this order would not be visible from Earth again for another 20 years. The next time it will happen will be August 2040. It said this planetary event was special because the planets appeared in the order they are positioned from the sun, with Saturn being the farthest away and Mercury the nearest. Another astronomer, Dr Diana Hannikainen, said the conjunction was noteworthy on Friday morning as a crescent moon accompanied the five planets. She said the alignment was 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.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. PLANETS:** Make a poster about planets. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ASTRONOMY:** Write a magazine article about astronomy being made a high school subject. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on planets. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how we can get more people interested in astronomy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. d    3. a    4. e    5. f    6. b    7. g  
8. i    9. l    10. n    11. j    12. h    13. k    14. m

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 F    8 F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. i
6. g	7. c	8. a	9. e	10. f

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. A celestial event
2. The naked eye
3. Before dawn / sunrise
4. The horizon
5. Mercury
6. August, 2040
7. Saturn
8. A crescent moon
9. Mercury
10. 29 years

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Major planets in our solar system lined up.
2. Saturn could be seen with the naked eye.
3. The planetary conjunction was visible in clear skies.
4. Professor Green was particularly happy at seeing Mercury.
5. It's satisfying to see this faint twinkling planet.
6. Not visible from Earth for another 20 years.
7. The order they are positioned from the sun.
8. She said the alignment was a delightful sight.
9. Planets all have different orbits of the sun.
10. Mercury takes 88 days to orbit the sun.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c    2. a    3. b    4. d    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. b    9. b    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)