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Level 2 – 29th September, 2022

NASA spacecraft hits asteroid in Earth-protection test

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-2.html>

There are many Hollywood movies about asteroids crashing into Earth and destroying us. The space agency NASA may have an answer to stop this happening. It tested a spacecraft that could change the direction of an asteroid so it doesn't hit our planet. The \$325 million spacecraft is called DART. It set off on its journey in November 2021. Its goal was to crash into an asteroid called Dimorphos. DART hit the centre of the asteroid at 24,000 kph on Monday. Scientists do not know if they have changed the asteroid's direction. They will find out in a few weeks when they get data.

It is the first time for humans to change the direction of an asteroid. A NASA spokesperson said DART was the first of many "planetary protection missions". He talked about the end of the dinosaurs. He said: "We want to have a better chance than the dinosaurs had 65 million years ago." He added that all the dinosaurs could do was to "look up and say, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA also said DART was a "new era for humankind". It said: "It's an era in which we potentially have the capability to protect ourselves from something like a dangerous, hazardous asteroid impact."

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-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. movies about asteroids | a. on its journey |
| 2. The space | b. the direction |
| 3. have an answer to | c. in a few weeks |
| 4. a spacecraft that could change | d. agency NASA |
| 5. it doesn't hit | e. asteroid at 24,000 kph |
| 6. It set off | f. crashing into Earth |
| 7. DART hit the centre of the | g. our planet |
| 8. They will find out | h. stop this happening |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. It is the first time | a. impact |
| 2. change the direction of | b. first of many |
| 3. DART was the | c. than the dinosaurs |
| 4. He talked about the | d. protect ourselves |
| 5. have a better chance | e. end of the dinosaurs |
| 6. a new era for | f. for humans |
| 7. have the capability to | g. humankind |
| 8. a dangerous, hazardous asteroid | h. an asteroid |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-2.html>

There are many Hollywood (1) _____ crashing into Earth and destroying us. The space agency NASA may have an (2) _____ this happening. It tested a spacecraft that could change the direction of an asteroid so it doesn't (3) _____. The \$325 million spacecraft is called DART. It (4) _____ its journey in November 2021. Its goal was to crash into an asteroid called Dimorphos. DART hit the centre of the asteroid at 24,000 kph on Monday. Scientists do not know if (5) _____ the asteroid's direction. They will (6) _____ a few weeks when they get data.

It is the first time (7) _____ change the direction of an asteroid. A NASA spokesperson said DART was the (8) _____ "planetary protection missions". He talked about the end of the dinosaurs. He said: "We want to have (9) _____ than the dinosaurs had 65 million years ago." He added that all (10) _____ do was to "look up and say, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA also said DART was a "new era for humankind". It said: "It's (11) _____ which we potentially have the capability (12) _____ from something like a dangerous, hazardous asteroid impact."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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ASTEROIDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-2.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 _____	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/2209/220929-asteroid-2.html>

Write about **asteroids** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.
