



Eclipse

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

phenomenon	A fact or event in nature or society that is unusual or difficult to understand (plural: phenomena).
[noun]	<i>Ex: A total eclipse is a very rare phenomenon.</i>

solar eclipse	A very rare phenomenon when the moon seems to partially or fully block the sun; when the moon passes exactly on the line between the sun and a place on the earth.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The greatest solar eclipse in Iceland happened in 1954.</i>

annular solar eclipse	A type of solar eclipse when the moon is far from the earth and cannot entirely cover the sun, making the sun look like bright light surrounding the moon.
[noun]	<i>Ex: There's going to be an annular solar eclipse visible from London.</i>



total solar eclipse	A type of solar eclipse when the moon is close to the earth and entirely covers the sun, making the sun vanish from the sky.
[noun]	<i>Ex: In three months, a total solar eclipse will darken the skies above Mexico.</i>

one in a million	Very rare.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: It was a one in a million opportunity, so I had to take it.</i>

hold your horses	To be patient.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Whoa, hold your horses. Let's go a bit more slowly.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Luke: I can't believe that we'll see a solar eclipse. It'll be so weird to see it get dark in the middle of the day.

Kate: It won't get completely dark, Luke.

Luke: What do you mean? I thought that's what happens during an eclipse.

Kate: That's what happens during a total solar eclipse. We're about to see a slightly different phenomenon.

Luke: What's the name of this phenomenon, then?

Kate: It's called an annular solar eclipse.

Luke: What's the difference, Kate?

Kate: Well basically, the moon doesn't completely block the light from the sun.



Luke: That's very disappointing, Kate.

Kate: I don't think so. It's even more rare than a normal solar eclipse. It's one in a million!

Luke: Well, let's hurry up and get outside. It's going to start soon and I don't want to miss it.

Kate: Hold your horses, I need to get those special glasses I bought.

Luke: Oh yeah! Does that mean we can look directly at the eclipse?

Kate: You bet we can, Luke!

Luke: Nice! The neighbors will be totally jealous!

Kate: Just make sure you only look for 30 seconds at a time. Otherwise you might damage your vision.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

phenomena

Hold your horses

annular solar eclipse

Total solar eclipse

solar eclipse

one in a million

1. _____! Don't act so quickly!
2. That was an _____, trust me.
3. Thunder and lightning are scary _____.
4. The chances of anything going wrong are _____. Don't worry!
5. _____ looks very cool! Did you know?
6. When is the _____ happening?



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You're about to look at the solar eclipse with your friend Hannah, talk to her about it. The teacher can be Hannah.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Have you ever seen a solar eclipse? Describe the experience.
2. Do natural phenomena such as solar eclipses appeal to you?
3. What is your opinion about people who travel and spend a lot of money only to watch a solar eclipse?
4. If you were to watch a solar eclipse, who would you like to watch it with?
5. Are you generally interested in astronomy? Why? Why not?