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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 2 – 26th December 2024

NASA spacecraft flies closest ever to the Sun

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241226-parker-solar-probe-2.html

Contents

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

THE READING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241226-parker-solar-probe-2.html

Things are heating up for the USA's NASA space agency. In 2018, NASA sent a small research probe to research and photograph the Sun - our nearest star. The spacecraft is called the Parker Solar Probe. It made history on Christmas Eve by going closer to the Sun than any spacecraft before. It flew to within 6.1 million km of the Sun. Parker holds another record. It is the fastest object ever built. In September 2023, it flew at a speed of 635,266 kph. At this speed, it could travel from New York to Tokyo in just 1.025 minutes.

The Parker Solar Probe is named after an astrophysicist. He spent his life studying the Sun and its solar flares. He wanted to know why the flares are hotter than the Sun's surface. This mystery is known as the "coronal heating problem". The temperature at the Sun's surface is 4,100ºC; while the temperature of the corona's flares can reach 1.1 million degrees Celsius. Scientists also want to find out how solar winds originate. NASA said Parker has faced extreme heat on its record-breaking fly-by. Temperatures reached a baking 980 degrees Celsius.

Sources: https://www.**space.com**/nasa-parker-solar-probe-christmas-flyby
https://edition.**cnn.com**/2024/12/23/science/parker-solar-probe-sun-close-approach/index.html
https://**phys.org**/news/2024-12-nasa-probe-closest-sun.html

PHRASE MATCHING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241226-parker-solar-probe-2.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. Things are heating	a. probe
2. NASA sent a small research	b. object ever built
3. photograph the Sun - our	c. record
4. It made	d. just 1.025 minutes
5. Parker holds another	e. history
6. It is the fastest	f. of 635,266 kph
7. it flew at a speed	g. nearest star
8. from New York to Tokyo in	h. up

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. named after an	a. the corona's flares
2. He spent his life	b. than the Sun's surface
3. He wanted to know	c. astrophysicist
4. flares are hotter	d. winds originate
5. The temperature	e. degrees Celsius
6. the temperature of	f. studying the Sun
7. reach 1.1 million	g. at the Sun's surface
8. find out how solar	h. why

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241226-parker-solar-probe-2.html

Things are (1) _____ the USA's NASA space agency. In 2018, NASA sent a small research (2) _____ and photograph the Sun - (3) _____. The spacecraft is called the Parker Solar Probe. It made history on Christmas Eve (4) _____ to the Sun than any spacecraft before. It flew to within 6.1 million km of the Sun. Parker holds another record. It is the (5) _____ built. In September 2023, it flew at a speed of 635,266 kph. (6) _____, it could travel from New York to Tokyo in just 1.025 minutes.

The Parker Solar Probe is (7) _____ astrophysicist. He spent his life studying the Sun and its solar flares. He wanted to know why the (8) _____ than the Sun's surface. This mystery is known as the "coronal heating problem". The temperature at (9) _____ is 4,100ºC; while the temperature of the corona's flares can reach 1.1 million degrees Celsius. Scientists also want to find out (10) _____ originate. NASA said Parker has (11) _____ on its record-breaking fly-by. Temperatures (12) _____ 980 degrees Celsius.

PUT A SLASH (/)WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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ThingsareheatingupfortheUSA'sNASAspaceagency.In2018,NASAse
ntasmallresearchprobetoresearchandphotographtheSun-ourneare
ststar.ThespacecraftiscalledtheParkerSolarProbe.Itmadehistoryon
ChristmasEvebygoingclosertotheSunthananyspacecraftbefore.Itfle
wtowithin6.1millionkmoftheSun.Parkerholdsanotherrecord.Itisthef
astestobjecteverbuilt.InSeptember2023,itflewataspeedof635,266k
ph.Atthisspeed,itcouldtravelfromNewYorktoTokyoinjust1.025minu
tes.TheParkerSolarProbeisnamedafteranastrophysicist.Hespenthisl
ifestudyingtheSunanditssolarflares.Hewantedtoknowwhytheflaresa
rehotterthantheSun'ssurface.Thismysteryisknownasthe"coronalhe
atingproblem".ThetemperatureattheSun'ssurfaceis4,100ºC;whilet
hetemperatureofthecorona'sflarescanreach1.1milliondegreesCelsi
us.Scientistsalsowanttofindouthowsolarwindsoriginate.NASAsaidP
arkerhasfacedextremeheatonitsrecord-breakingfly-by.Temperatu
resreachedabaking980degreesCelsius.

THE SUN SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2412/241226-parker-solar-probe-2.html

Write five GOOD questions about the sun 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/2412/241226-parker-solar-probe-2.html

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