



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Science: Solar Eclipse

科学: 日全食



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## Science: Solar Eclipse 科学: 日全食

### Asia is Plunged into Darkness: 亚洲陷入黑暗

Across Asia many people have just witnessed the **natural wonder** that is a **total solar eclipse**.

A total solar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Moon and Earth align in such a way that our view of the Sun is totally **obscured** by the Moon.

This week's total eclipse could be seen in eastern India before slowly moving across Burma, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Japan, and the Pacific Ocean.

Yesterday, when it reached eastern China, people **flocked** into the streets to witness the **astronomical** wonder.

As daylight disappeared and the sky quickly darkened, those watching were left **far from disappointed**. Cities such as Shanghai were **plunged into darkness** during what is thought to be the longest total eclipse of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It lasted 6 minutes and 39 seconds.

Total solar eclipses of such a long duration are very **rare** events, they happen **but once in a lifetime**. Shao Zhenyi, an **astronomer** at the Shanghai Astronomical **Observatory** in China explained:

"We'll have to wait a few hundred years for another opportunity to observe a solar eclipse that lasts this long, so it's a very special opportunity."

But while millions celebrate this **phenomenon**, it should be remembered that total eclipses have not always been such treasured events.

Many cultures traditionally believed that a total eclipse was a **bad omen** or a **supernatural** event. Some believed that **evil** gods were eating the Sun. Others believed that the eclipse signified **oncoming** disasters.

Nowadays it appears that these **fears and superstitions** are long forgotten. As daylight once again **flooded** Asian cities such as Shanghai, **whoops and cheers** could be heard among the gathered crowds.

Reflecting on what had just happened, one Shanghai resident described the eclipse as "**eerie**", whilst another said "It's like magic, the day turns into night in such a short period of time. I have no idea where I am right now. It feels like a different world."

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>natural wonder</b> – 自然奇观	<b>total solar eclipse</b> – 日全食
<b>obscured</b> – 遮盖, 遮掩	<b>flocked</b> – 涌入
<b>astronomical</b> – 天文的	<b>far from disappointed</b> – 没有觉得失望
<b>plunged into darkness</b> – 陷入黑暗	<b>rare</b> – 罕见的
<b>but once in a lifetime</b> – 一生一次, 形容千载难逢的机会	<b>astronomer</b> – 天文学家
<b>observatory</b> – 天文台	<b>phenomenon</b> – 现象, 奇迹
<b>bad omen</b> – 凶兆	<b>supernatural</b> – 超自然的
<b>evil</b> – 邪恶的	<b>oncoming</b> – 即将来临的
<b>fears and superstitions</b> – 恐惧和迷信	<b>(daylight) flooded</b> 日光照亮了
<b>whoops and cheers</b> – 起哄和欢呼声	<b>eerie</b> – 怪诞的, 奇异的

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. During a total solar eclipse the Sun obscures our view of the Moon. **True / False**
2. This week's total solar eclipse could be seen in many Asian countries. **True / False**
3. During the total solar eclipse, many cities experienced several minutes of complete darkness. **True / False**
4. Total solar eclipses happen once a year. **True / False**
5. Some cultures traditionally thought that a total solar eclipse was a bad omen. **True / False**

**2. Jumbled Words** 字母顺序颠倒的单词

a) Rearrange the letters in the words below to form the names of the stars and planets in our solar system.

请重新组合以下字母顺序颠倒的单词，这些单词都是太阳系里的行星。

- a. eMyrurc \_\_\_\_\_
- b. unS \_\_\_\_\_
- c. unraSt \_\_\_\_\_
- d. sraM \_\_\_\_\_
- e. peNtenu \_\_\_\_\_
- f. thEra \_\_\_\_\_
- g. rsaUnu \_\_\_\_\_
- h. uptiJre \_\_\_\_\_
- i. eVsnu \_\_\_\_\_

b) Label the stars and planets (1-9). Pick words from the list above (a-i).

请用以上的行星名称 (a-i) 为下图注明 (1-9)。



### 3 Phrases 短语

Match the phrases with their definitions. Choose a phrase from the box.

把以下短语和相关的解释搭配在一起。

reach for the stars

once in a blue moon

over the moon

out of this world

spaced out

down to earth

1. If something is \_\_\_\_\_, it is extremely good and almost unbelievable.
2. If you are feeling \_\_\_\_\_, you are unaware of what is happening around you.
3. If you are feeling \_\_\_\_\_, you are incredibly happy.
4. If something happens \_\_\_\_\_, it happens very rarely.
5. If someone tells you to \_\_\_\_\_, they are telling you to be ambitious and to set your goals high.
6. If you are \_\_\_\_\_, you have a realistic outlook on life.

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with this week's topic in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请找出和本周题目相关的英语单词。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→)垂直的(↓)或对角的(↘)形式出现。

v	u	r	n	u	s	s	a	t	u	r	n
e	h	n	e	p	t	u	n	i	f	e	e
n	u	d	s	u	n	s	e	f	e	x	a
u	k	s	a	m	e	r	c	u	r	y	t
s	h	r	s	v	p	m	o	o	n	x	r
m	r	p	o	y	t	g	u	t	h	r	a
e	m	a	r	s	u	r	s	a	c	h	h
d	p	u	t	a	n	r	s	e	g	g	s
x	e	l	e	s	e	a	r	t	h	r	r
b	u	r	a	n	u	s	d	d	g	b	m
j	r	j	u	p	u	t	o	r	b	x	a
m	r	a	s	j	j	u	p	i	t	e	r

Sun	Mercury	Moon	Earth	Venus
Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Jupiter	Mars

## Answers 答案

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- During a total solar eclipse the Sun obscures our view of the Moon. **False**
- This week's total solar eclipse could be seen in many Asian countries. **True**
- During the total solar eclipse, some Asian cities experienced several minutes of complete darkness. **True**
- Total solar eclipses happen once a year. **False**
- Some cultures traditionally thought that a total solar eclipse was a bad omen. **True**

### 3 Phrases 短语

- If something is **out of this world**, it is extremely good and almost unbelievable.
- If you are feeling **spaced out**, you are unaware of what is happening around you.
- If you are feeling **over the moon**, you are incredibly happy.
- If something happens **once in a blue moon**, it happens very rarely.
- If someone tells you to **reach for the stars**, they are telling you to be ambitious and to set your goals high.
- If you are **down to earth**, you have a realistic outlook on life.

### 2. Jumbled Words 字母顺序颠倒的单词

- a)
- (a) Mercury, (b) Sun, (c) Saturn, (d) Mars, (e) Neptune, (f) Earth, (g) Uranus, (h) Jupiter, (i) Venus
- b)
- (1) Sun, (2) Mercury, (3) Venus, (4) Earth, (5) Mars, (6) Jupiter, (7) Saturn, (8) Uranus, (9) Neptune

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

v						s	a	t	u	r	n
e											
n			s	u	n						
u				m	e	r	c	u	r	y	
s					p	m	o	o	n		
					t						
	m	a	r	s	u						
					n						
					e	a	r	t	h		
	u	r	a	n	u	s					
					j	u	p	i	t	e	r