

Lesson 46: Watching an Eclipse

Hi! How are you today?

Today's lesson is about "*Watching an Eclipse.*"

Have fun learning English!

Warm-up | Useful Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

Vocabulary and Expressions

- **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
- **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
- **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.
- **one in a million** - very rare
- **bet on it** - an expression when you agree on an opinion
- **do not know beans** - do not know anything about something
- **cross my fingers** - to hope or wish for something to happen
- **hold your horses** - be patient

Activity 1 | Dialogue 1

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

Jamie and Hannah are talking about the solar eclipse that is about to happen tomorrow.

Jamie: Hey Hannah!

Hannah: Hello Jamie, have you heard that there will be a **solar eclipse** later tomorrow?

Jamie: Really? I didn't know about that.

Hannah: Yes, it will occur at around 10:00am, as what the news reporter said.

Jamie: I bet that is like a **one in a million** experience!

Hannah: **I bet on that.** And the news stated that it will be an **annular solar eclipse!**

Jamie: What is that? I **do not know beans** about its different types.

Hannah: Well, an annular solar eclipse is the type of eclipse that the sun appears to be like a blindingly bright light surrounding the moon's shadow, like a ring of sunlight!

Jamie: Fantastic! That is what you call "the diamond ring"? I've heard of it...

Hannah: No, the diamond ring happens only in a **total solar eclipse**. When the moon is close to the earth, it looks bigger in our eyes and it covers the whole sun. That is a total solar eclipse. When the sun appears out of the shade of the moon, it becomes very bright, like a diamond ring under a strong light. On the other hand, when the moon is far from the earth, it looks smaller and we can see the ring of the sun. That is an annular solar eclipse. But both of them only happen when the moon is exactly on the line between your place and the sun and it only happens once in three to four hundred years in one place.

Jamie: I see. You really know a lot about it!

Hannah: Thanks, I was interested in it before and studied a lot! In addition, in ancient times, people were really afraid of the eclipse. They considered it to be a sign that something very bad was about to happen. Since, the Sun was considered to be the god at that time.

Jamie: I see. Somehow I can understand what these people were thinking. I would've thought the same way if I had no scientific knowledge about it. But fortunately, now I'm living in modern times. I'll just **cross my fingers** to see that one!

Hannah: Me too! But, it will not happen until tomorrow, so we will have to **hold our horses!**

Check your understanding: Answer the following questions.

1. What is Hannah so excited about?
2. What is an annular solar eclipse?
3. Why were people in ancient times afraid of the solar eclipse?
4. Explain why the diamond ring happens only in a total solar eclipse.

Activity 2 | Dialogue 2

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher and fill in the following blanks with the words from vocabulary and expressions.

Lea: Do you know that there will be a _____ tomorrow?

Ronald: Oh! Really? I _____ about that.

Lea: Yes! And it will be a _____ experience. It only happens once in four hundred years!

Ronald: Wow! I should _____ to witness it then!

Lea: You should! I am also very eager to watch it! But I know I should _____ until tomorrow!

Activity 3 | Free Conversation

Directions: Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions.

1. Have you ever seen a solar eclipse before?
2. Do scientific phenomena like a solar eclipse attract you?
3. What is your opinion about people who go far from their place and spend a lot of money only to watch a solar eclipse?
4. If you are to watch a solar eclipse, who would you like to watch it with?
5. A solar eclipse is indeed very rare. Can you describe an event in your life that is as memorable and rare as a solar eclipse?