



## Perseid Meteor Shower (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are you interested in astronomy?
2. What do you know about our solar system and our galaxy?
3. Have you ever seen a shooting star?
4. Do people in your country make a wish when they see a shooting star?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The best nights to look for the Perseid meteor shower are those around the middle of August.
2. Its display of shooting stars will be visible for about a week.
3. Shooting stars are not really stars.
4. While they are in space, they are called meteorites.
5. The Comet 109P/Swift Tuttle takes 122 years to travel around the Sun.
6. It will be seen again in 2025.
7. Swift Tuttle is about the same size as the comet that is thought to have killed the dinosaurs.
8. The best way to see the Perseids is to lie on your back in a park or in the country.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why will it be best to look for meteors after midnight?
2. Where do meteors come from?
3. What happens when they enter the Earth's atmosphere?
4. What do astronomers think Comet 109P/Swift Tuttle will be like next time it passes?
5. How did Swift Tuttle get its name?
6. What information does the article give us about Perseus?
7. What does NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) say about the meteors?
8. How can your phone help you to see the Perseids?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. We drove to the theatre an hour early in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the rush hour traffic.
2. The little boy's face \_\_\_\_\_ when his uncle arrived with a big tub of ice-cream.
3. After the demolition of the building, all that was left was a pile of \_\_\_\_\_ and other debris.
4. When skiing, you should wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from \_\_\_\_\_ sunlight.
5. The birds in my garden wake me up when they start singing just before \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
6. One of the best places to go \_\_\_\_\_ in Europe is the Kerry Dark Sky Reserve in Ireland.

## **E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)**

*Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.*

Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is a spiral galaxy that formed around 14 billion years ago. If we <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (will/would/could/can) look down on it, it would look like a gigantic wheel rotating in space and <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (measured/measuring/measures/measurement) approximately 100,000 light-years in diameter.

The Milky Way is made <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (up of/from/with/out of) stars, planets, asteroids and clouds of gas and dust <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (referred/named/called/known) as nebulae. Everything in the galaxy, including our Solar System, revolves around its centre. Our Sun and its planets, one of <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (whose/which/whom/them) is Earth, are 26,000 light years from the galactic centre and it takes 250 million years for them to complete one revolution around the centre.

To the <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (nude/naked/sole/lone) eye, the galaxy looks like a white <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (dot/spot/line/streak) across the sky. This is the why the Romans called it the Via Galactica, meaning "the road of milk". In 1610, with the <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (aid/use/view/addition) of a telescope, Galileo Galilei saw that it consisted of billions of stars.

## **F – Talk about it**

*In pairs or groups.*

1. How many constellations of the Zodiac can you name?
2. Can you identify any of these constellations in the night sky?
3. Do you know your star sign?
4. If so, do you know what personality traits are associated with it? Are they true in your case?
5. Do you believe it's possible to obtain information about a person's future by studying the positions of the stars and planets?
6. Do you ever read your horoscope? If so, why?

## **G – Talk about it**

*In pairs or groups.*

1. What expressions are used in your language to express surprise and admiration?
  2. Are they slang expressions?
  3. Do you know how they originated?
  4. What other foreign words and phrases are used frequently in your country?
  5. Do you think there are too many? Why (not)?
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## Answers: Perseid Meteor Shower

### B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – It will be visible for several weeks. 3. T 4. F – They are called meteoroids. 5. T 6. F – It will be seen again in 2125. 7. F – It is twice the size of that comet. 8. T

### C – Read and answer

1. Because the moon sets around midnight and so the sky will be darker. 2. They come from the rubble trailing behind a comet. 3. They burn up and display streaks of light. 4. They think it will be as bright as Comet Halle-Bob in 1997. 5. It was named after the two scientists who discovered it separately in 1862. 6. Perseus is a constellation named after a hero from Greek mythology. It lies in the northern sky and is shaped like a sideways Y. Every year it provides the backdrop of the Perseid shower. 7. It says they will travel at 59 kilometres per second and will reach temperatures of 1,650 degrees Celsius. 8. You can use a stargazing app to locate the right place to look.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. avoid 2. lit up 3. rubble 4. dazzling 5. dawn 6. stargazing

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. could 2. measuring 3. up of 4. known 5. which 6. naked 7. streak 8. aid