

Moon facts and myths

Language

Vocabulary connected with the Moon, comparatives / superlatives, collocations

Level

Elementary to pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A1/A2–B1 and above)

Comment

Following the recent Supermoon on 19 March 2011, this eLesson looks at some facts and myths about the Moon.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Set the context of the reading: facts and myths about the Moon. Pre-teach *myth* and *superstition* or refer students to the Glossary. Brainstorm what students already know about the Moon either as a whole class activity or in pairs/small groups followed by class feedback.
- 2 Pre-teach any vocabulary that might prevent students from doing the first reading task, eg *positive / negative* (exercise 1). Set exercise 1 and give a brief time limit, eg 1–2 minutes depending on students' level, to encourage fast reading. When the time limit is up, students can discuss their answers in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives students practice in reading for detailed comprehension. If you feel your students might have problems with any of the words, you can refer them to the Glossary if appropriate. Students could compare their answers in pairs. In class feedback ask students to justify their answers with reference to the text.
- 4 Exercise 3 focuses on comparative / superlative adjectives and is the chance to teach or revise the rules for forming them. The ones in the exercise are short adjectives + *er / est*, short adjectives ending in *e + r / st*, *more / most* + longer adjectives and one irregular adjective: *good / better / best*. If it is appropriate for your students, you could include 2-syllable adjectives ending in *-y*, eg *happy / happier / happiest*. You could also point out the use of *than* in comparatives and the pronunciation of the weak form /ðən/.
- 5 Exercise 4 gives students practice of the comparatives and superlatives from exercise 3 and relates to the content of the text. Students choose the correct form to complete the sentences. If appropriate, students pair check. Take feedback.
- 6 Exercise 5 focuses on word partnerships (collocation). Students choose the correct preposition. This might be an appropriate time to tell students / remind students to make a note of new vocabulary with any words which are typically used with them.
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students practice in using the collocations from the previous exercise, relating it back to the text, eg *There are many superstitions about the Moon*.
- 8 Exercise 7 gives students personalised speaking practice about the Moon. Set the discussion task for small groups if appropriate. Take class feedback. If appropriate for your students, you could ask them to read the article about space travel in the *Related websites* below, for discussion in a following lesson. Would they like to go on the trip or not?

Reading eLesson

Answer key

1

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1 paragraph 6 | 4 paragraph 2 |
| 2 paragraph 3 | 5 paragraph 4 |
| 3 paragraph 5 | 6 paragraph 1 |

2

- 1 F (there is no proof – it's what many people think)
- 2 T
- 3 F (there are only 28 / 29 days in February and there are about 30 days between full moons, so there can only be one full moon)
- 4 T
- 5 T
- 6 F (there are plans for space tourists, but not tourists travelling to the Moon)

3

adjective	comparative	superlative		adjective	comparative	superlative
bright	brighter	brightest		good	better	best
near	nearer	nearest		unusual	more unusual	most unusual
large	larger	largest		common	more common	most common

4

- 1 more common
- 2 nearest
- 3 larger; brighter
- 4 more unusual
- 5 best / brightest

5

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 superstitions about | 6 origin of |
| 2 fascinated by | 7 proof of |
| 3 talk about | 8 reason for |
| 4 believe in | 9 interested in |
| 5 happy about | 10 name for |

6 / 7 Students' own answers / ideas

Related websites

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/space-hotel-on-schedule-to-open-in-2012-1813871.html>

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/naked-science/4253/Overview#tab-facts>

<http://nineplanets.org/luna.html>

http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/blue_moon.html

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/bad-moon-rising-2245362.html>