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## **Level 1** – 29th September, 2022

### **NASA spacecraft hits asteroid in Earth-protection test**

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-1.html>

Hollywood makes many movies about asteroids hitting and destroying Earth. NASA may soon be able to stop asteroids. It tested a spacecraft that could change the direction of an asteroid so it doesn't hit Earth. It is called DART. It set off in November 2021 to crash into an asteroid. DART hit the centre of the asteroid at 24,000 kph. Scientists do not know if they have changed the asteroid's direction. They will find out in a few weeks when they get data.

NASA said DART was the first of many "planetary protection missions". It joked about the death of the dinosaurs. It said: "We want to have a better chance than the dinosaurs had 65 million years ago." It added that all the dinosaurs could do was to "look up and say, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA also said DART was a "new era for humankind". It said we could "protect ourselves from something like a dangerous, hazardous asteroid impact".

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/sep/26/nasa-spacecraft-asteroid-crash-planetary-defense-test>  
<https://www.fox13now.com/news/national/nasa-ready-to-see-if-crashing-a-spacecraft-can-alter-asteroids-path>  
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/nasa-successfully-smacked-its-dart-impactor-spacecraft-into-an-asteroid-231706710.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. many movies            | a. of an asteroid       |
| 2. hitting and            | b. asteroid's direction |
| 3. NASA may soon be able  | c. hit Earth            |
| 4. change the direction   | d. destroying Earth     |
| 5. it doesn't             | e. in a few weeks       |
| 6. DART hit the centre of | f. to stop asteroids    |
| 7. they have changed the  | g. the asteroid         |
| 8. They will find out     | h. about asteroids      |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. NASA said DART was the first | a. was to look up  |
| 2. planetary protection         | b. chance          |
| 3. the death of                 | c. missions        |
| 4. We want to have a better     | d. ago             |
| 5. 65 million years             | e. humankind       |
| 6. all the dinosaurs could do   | f. of many         |
| 7. a new era for                | g. asteroid impact |
| 8. a dangerous, hazardous       | h. the dinosaurs   |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-1.html>

Hollywood (1) \_\_\_\_\_ about asteroids hitting and destroying Earth. NASA (2) \_\_\_\_\_ able to stop asteroids. It tested a spacecraft that could (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of an asteroid so it doesn't hit Earth. It is called DART. It set off in November 2021 (4) \_\_\_\_\_ an asteroid. DART hit the centre of the asteroid at 24,000 kph. Scientists (5) \_\_\_\_\_ if they have changed the asteroid's direction. They will find out (6) \_\_\_\_\_ weeks when they get data.

NASA said DART was the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ "planetary protection missions". It (8) \_\_\_\_\_ death of the dinosaurs. It said: "We want to have (9) \_\_\_\_\_ than the dinosaurs had 65 million years ago." It added that all the dinosaurs could do was to "(10) \_\_\_\_\_ say, 'Oh asteroid'". NASA also said DART was a "(11) \_\_\_\_\_ humankind". It said we could "protect ourselves from something (12) \_\_\_\_\_, hazardous asteroid impact".

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-1.html>

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# ASTEROIDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2209/220929-asteroid-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about asteroids 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) \_\_\_\_\_

