

Reading Level 1: The 'supermoon'

May 6th 2012



Topics: science, nature

Learning points:

- comparatives and superlatives
- numbers
- past simple
- present simple
- vocabulary

1 Did you see the moon on Saturday night? Did it look different¹ to normal?
2 It was a full moon, but the moon was bigger than normal – it was a 'supermoon'.
3 It was 10% larger than a typical full moon. It was also brighter² than normal, by about 3%.
4 Do you know why?
5
6 The reason³ is that the moon was closer⁴ to Earth than normal. It was at the closest point in its orbit.
7 It is 50,000km closer than when it is furthest⁵ away (and 15% bigger and 30% brighter than when it is at its
8 furthest point).
9
10 There is a supermoon every year. Yesterday the moon was at its brightest for 2012, but another supermoon
11 will happen⁶ in 2013. On March 19th 2011 there was a supermoon that was 400km closer to Earth than this
12 one.
13
14 Some people say that they can feel⁷ the full moon. Did you sleep well last night? I didn't! I woke up⁸ early⁹ in
15 the morning. Did you know that the word 'lunacy'¹⁰ comes from the Latin word for the moon?
16 There is no scientific¹¹ link¹² between full moons and illness¹³ or bad behaviour¹⁴.
17
18 People thought that the tide¹⁵ in the sea was higher than normal, because the moon's gravity¹⁶ was stronger,
19 but it was only 2-3cm higher.
20
21 The sky was cloudy where I live, so I didn't see the 'supermoon'. But there are lots of photographs of it on the
22 internet. The moon looks biggest when it is low¹⁷ in the sky, near the horizon. This is a trick of the eye – it is
23 not real. The moon will be (nearly¹⁸) as big as it was yesterday for the next couple¹⁹ of nights. Maybe²⁰ you
24 will see it tomorrow night!

¹ different = anders

² bright = hell

³ reason = Grund für etw.

⁴ close = Nähe

⁵ furthest = am weitesten entfernte

⁶ happen = passieren

⁷ feel = fühlen, spüren

⁸ wake up = aufwachen

⁹ early = früh

¹⁰ lunacy = Wahnsinn

¹¹ scientific = naturwissenschaftlich

¹² link = Verbindung

¹³ illness = Krankheit

¹⁴ behaviour = Benehmen, Verhalten

¹⁵ tide = Gezeiten, (Meer)Flut

¹⁶ gravity = Schwerkraft

¹⁷ low = niedrig, tief

¹⁸ nearly = fast

¹⁹ couple = paar

²⁰ maybe = vielleicht

Level 1 questions

Comparatives and superlatives

1. Can you complete these sentences, using the word [in brackets]?

a. [big] The moon is _____.

Now it looks _____ it did one month ago.

It was at its _____ on Saturday night.

b. [bright] The moon is very _____ at the moment.

It is 15% _____ normal.

It was at its _____ in 2012.

c. [high] the tides were 2-3cm _____ normal.

d. [big] the moon will be _____ it is now for the next couple of nights.

Numbers

2. Listen carefully to how you say the following numbers, and say them yourself:

- a. 10%
- b. 50,000km
- c. 15%
- d. 2012
- e. 2013
- f. March 19th 2011
- g. 400km
- h. 2-3cm

Present Simple

3. We use the Present Simple tense for permanent facts. For questions and negatives, we use the auxiliary verb 'do'. For positive sentences, we use the 1st verb form. Don't forget – with 'he/she/it' we need an extra 's' at the end! Can you complete these:

a. _____ you _____ (know) why?

b. The reason _____ (be) that...

c. There _____ (be) a supermoon every year.

d. Some people _____ (say) that they _____ (can, feel) the full moon.

e. The moon _____ (look) biggest when it _____ (be) low in the sky.

Past Simple

4. Look at how the Past Simple tense is formed. For questions and negatives, we use the auxiliary verb 'did'. For positive sentences, we use the 2nd verb form.

Can you complete these:

- a. _____ you _____ (see) the moon on Saturday night?
- b. _____ it _____ (look) different to normal?
- c. It _____ (be) a full moon.
- d. _____ you _____ (sleep) well last night?
- e. I _____ (not, sleep) well.
- f. I _____ (wake up) early.
- g. _____ you _____ (know) that the word 'lunacy' comes from the Latin word for the moon?
- h. People _____ (think) that the tides were higher than normal.
- i. I _____ (not, see) the supermoon.

Level 1 answers

Comparatives and superlatives

1. Can you complete these sentences, using the word [in brackets]?

a. [big] The moon is big

Now it looks bigger than it did one month ago.

It was at its biggest on Saturday night.

b. [bright] The moon is very bright at the moment.

It is 15% brighter than normal.

It was at its brightest in 2012.

c. [high] the tides were 2-3cm higher than normal.

d. [big] the moon will be as big as it is now for the next couple of nights.

3.

a. Do you know (know) why?

b. The reason is (be) that...

c. There is (be) a supermoon every year.

d. Some people say (say) that they can feel (can, feel) the full moon.

e. The moon looks (look) biggest when it is (be) low in the sky.

Past Simple

4.

a. Did you see (see) the moon on Saturday night?

b. Did it look (look) different to normal?

c. It was (be) a full moon.

d. Did you sleep (sleep) well last night?

e. I did not sleep (not, sleep) well.

f. I woke up (wake up) early.

g. Did you know (know) that the word 'lunacy' comes from the Latin word for the moon?

h. People thought (think) that the tides were higher than normal.

i. I did not see (not, see) the supermoon.