

2024 TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN!

Bill's World-Class English Class Conversation Kickstarter #5 (Version 1.6)



Let's talk about the next total eclipse to cross the United States!

I. April 2024 Total Eclipse of the Sun



On April 8, 2024 a total eclipse of the sun will cross Mexico, the United States and Canada. A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun and blocks all direct sunlight.

1. Have you ever witnessed an eclipse? Do you know [when the next one will occur](#) near you?
2. Some people travel long distances to witness eclipses. Would you?

II. Ancient Eclipses



In ancient times, the cause of eclipses was unknown, and witnesses were terrified. Some people experienced heart attacks, and Mayan priests used their accurate predictions to control the masses.

1. Does not knowing the reason for an event make it scarier? Explain a similar event.

2. Some say “Knowledge is power.” Do you agree?

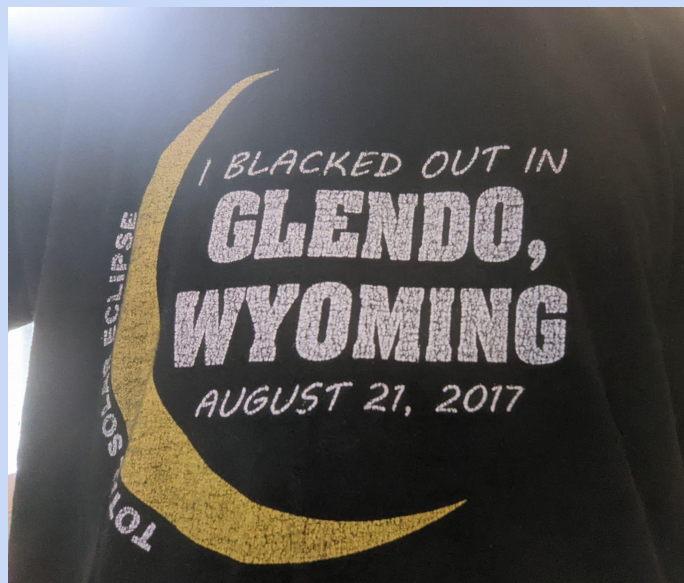
III. The Cold and Darkness



During an eclipse, the midday sky darkens to night (stars other than the Sun can be seen), and temperatures drop suddenly and dramatically.

1. Would watching an eclipse from above the Earth be better? Would you travel into space?
2. Animals have exhibited strange behavior during eclipses. Should this be expected?

IV. Celestial Events and Capitalism!



(Credit: W.R. Hammons)

Total eclipses of the Sun (at least in the United States) have been treated as economic opportunities for everything from t-shirt sales to promotion of small communities like Glendon, WY (population: 201).

1. Events [like 9/11 have also been treated](#) as “merchandising opportunities.” Is this appropriate?
2. What have entrepreneurs in your own country done to capitalize off tourism? Explain in detail.

V. Total Solar Eclipse 2017 as seen from Beatrice, Nebraska!



Watch this recording of the last total solar eclipse to cross the US!

1. What makes this recording less than perfect? What term describes the sudden burst of light?
2. The last total eclipse of the 21st century will cross the US in 2099. Describe plans to see it.

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