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**Jennifer:** Hello, I'm Jennifer, and welcome to another edition of Question and Answer of the Week. Joining me in the studio today is Li – hi Li!

**Li:** 大家好我是杨莉。

**Jennifer:** In this programme, we answer any questions you have about learning English. What's this week's question, Li?

**Li:** 本周我们要解答 Andy 提出的问题，他是这样写的：

### Question

*I enjoy looking up at night. Sometimes I want to share my joy with others, but I can't name the planets in English. I wish I could learn some words and phrases about astronomy.*

**Jennifer:** Fantastic! I don't think we've had a question from a stargazer before. A stargazer is an astronomer - or someone who likes looking at the night sky.

**Li:** A stargazer 就是观星者，一个喜欢对着晴朗的夜空观赏星星的人。

**Jennifer:** There are lots of words and phrases which are linked to astronomy and the sky at night, so let's talk first of all about the solar system.

**Li:** The solar system 太阳系。 That means the planets, right?

**Jennifer:** Well, not just the planets, but we'll start with them. Do you think you can name them all in English?

**Li:** Hmm... 我能用英语把太阳系的行星的名字说出来吗？ Well, there is Earth 地球 – that's easy.

**Jennifer:** Correct! Earth, or planet Earth, is the planet that we live on. It's the third closest to the sun. But which two planets are closer?

- Li:** I always get them in the wrong order! Is one of them Mars? 火星比地球距离太阳更近是不是?
- Jennifer:** I'm afraid not. Mars, which is sometimes called the red planet in English, is the fourth planet away from the sun, it comes after Earth. The two closest are Mercury and Venus. Mercury is tiny, and Venus is around the same size as Earth.
- Li:** Mercury and Venus 水星和金星。按照离太阳的距离从小到大的排列前四个就是: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars... 然后呢?
- Jennifer:** The next few planets are sometimes called the gas giants in English, because they're gigantic and, well, made of gas. They are Jupiter, the biggest planet in the solar system, and Saturn. Saturn is well-known as it has a ring of ice and rock in its orbit. If you orbit something, you circle it or go around it.
- Li:** 木星 Jupiter; 土星 Saturn 是按照距离太远的远近排位第五和第六的两颗行星。他们有时被称为“巨型气体行星” 'gas giants'. 环绕土星的是一圈冰和石头, 绕轨道而行就是 orbit.
- Jennifer:** The last two are Uranus and Neptune. These are very cold, icy planets, because they're so far away from the sun.
- Li:** 接下来是天王星 – Uranus –和海王星 – Neptune – 在太阳系的八大行星中他们距太阳最远, 也最冷, 冰冷 icy.
- Jennifer:** So those are the planets – I'll test you at the end to see if you can remember them. Now, as well as the planets, there are other things that you might see in the night sky... Can you think of any?
- Li:** Stars, obviously, especially on a clear night. 哎, 我想知道星座也就是一组星星, 在英语里如何表达?
- Jennifer:** It's called a constellation – and that's where we get star signs from!
- Li:** 星座就是 a constellation. What is your star sign, Jen?
- Jennifer:** Well, I'm a typical Sagittarius. Something else that you might see if you are using a telescope is a comet. A comet is a piece of rock which is orbiting the sun.
- Li:** 彗星, 或稱扫帚星, comets 也是是一种天体, 是由太阳系外围行星形成后所剩余的物质, 如冰冻的气体、冰块、尘埃组成。别忘了还有月亮 the moon, Jen.

- Jennifer:** Well, there's actually more than one! Earth has its moon, that's the one which we are all familiar with, but many of the other planets have moons too. Saturn has nine!
- Li:** Wow, nine moons! There's so much going on in space.
- Jennifer:** I think the most exciting thing is that the universe is so big, there is so much left to discover.
- Li:** And it's constantly expanding, too! 宇宙 universe 是无边无际的. Could there be life on other planets?
- Jennifer:** Who knows? I'd love to find out. Now, speaking of planets, I said I'd test you at the end of the programme, so here goes. Can you name all of the planets of the solar system, in English?
- Li:** OK, 按照离太阳的距离, 从小到大, 它们依次为 Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus... and... Neptune?
- Jennifer:** Correct! You're a grade A student. Well, Andy, I hope that we have answered your question. Now that we've given you some vocabulary, why not write to us and tell us what you've seen through your telescope?
- Li:** 你可以把你的评论或其他问题通过电子邮件发给我们, 我们的邮箱是 questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. 谢谢收听, 再会!
- Jennifer:** Bye!