

**Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men,  
but from doing something worthwhile.**

(Wilfred Grenfell, English medical missionary, 1865 - 1940)



**Earthgrazer: The Great Daylight Fireball of 1972**

**Credit & Copyright:** James M. Baker

**Explanation:** What is that streaking across the sky? A bright earthgrazing meteor. In 1972, an [unusually bright meteor](#) from space was [witnessed](#) bouncing off Earth's atmosphere, much like a [skipping stone](#) can bounce off of a calm lake. The impressive event lasted several seconds, was visible in daylight, and reportedly visible all the way from [Utah, USA](#) to [Alberta, Canada](#). [Pictured above](#), the fireball was [photographed](#) streaking above [Teton mountains](#) behind [Jackson Lake, Wyoming, USA](#). The [Great Daylight Fireball of 1972](#) was possibly the size of a small truck, and would likely have created an [impressive airburst](#) were it to have [struck Earth](#) more directly. [Earthgrazing meteors](#) are rare but are more commonly [seen](#) when the [radiant](#) of a [meteor shower](#) is just rising or setting. At that time, meteors closer to the Earth than [earthgrazers](#) would more usually strike the Earth near the horizon, while meteors further than [earthgrazers](#) would miss the Earth entirely.

**onerous**

\AH-nuh-rus\



adjective

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### Meaning

- \*1 : involving, imposing, or constituting a burden : troublesome
- 2 : having legal obligations that outweigh the advantages

### Example Sentence

Christy considered driving her sister to ballet practice to be an onerous task.

▣

### Did you know?

"Onerous," which traces back to the Latin "onus," meaning "burden," has several synonyms. Like "onerous," "burdensome," "oppressive," and "exacting" all refer to something which imposes a hardship of some kind. "Onerous" stresses a sense of laboriousness and heaviness, especially because something is distasteful ("the onerous task of cleaning up the mess"). "Burdensome" suggests something which causes mental as well as physical strain ("the burdensome responsibilities of being a supervisor"). "Oppressive" implies extreme harshness or severity in what is imposed ("the oppressive tyranny of a police state"). "Exacting" suggests rigor or sternness rather than tyranny or injustice in the demands made or in the one demanding ("an exacting employer who requires great attention to detail").


\*Indicates the sense illustrated in the example sentence.


Best Regards,

**Ron Van Alstyne**

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