

TOEFL LESSON 18

INDEPENDENT QUESTIONS

- Q1: Talk about something you and your family enjoy doing together. Describe it and explain why you all enjoy it.
Q2: Who is an important person in your country? Describe this person and explain why he/she is important.
Q3: What is your favorite style of clothing? Describe it and explain why it is your favorite.

INTEGRATED TASK

Read a short passage and listen to a talk on the same topic.

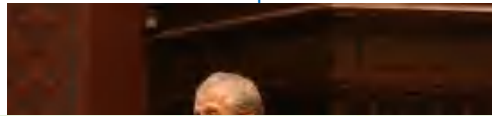
Reading time: 45 seconds

Formation of the Solar System

Around 5 billion years ago, what is today our solar system was most likely a spinning cloud of gas and dust. The vast majority gas and dust in this cloud began clumping together to form our Sun, and some of the rest of the material began forming clumps that became the planets in our solar system, including our Earth. As our planet came together, it formed into a globe with a layered structure. The way that this layered structure ended up was with the heavier material in the middle of the globe and the lighter material on the outside surrounding the heavier material.



Now listen to a passage and take note of the main points.



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(professor) It's not clear to scientists exactly how this layered structure came to be. The various theories about how the layered structure came about can be classified into two general categories. In one category of theories about how the layered structure came to be, the core formed first and then the lighter layers came later. In the second category of theories, all the material clumped together first and then later separated into layers. In other words, in the first category of theories the Earth started out only as the core, with the lighter layers coming later, and in the second category of theories the Earth started out with all of its material and later separated into layers.

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VOCABULARY HOMEWORK:

1. His pleasant ways beguiled everyone into thinking he was a good man.
(A) confirmed
(B) belated
(C) begrudged
(D) **deceived**
2. The volcano belched smoke and ashes.
(A) behested
(B) **erupted**
(C) battered
(D) bated
3. President Carter has been beleaguered with problems at home and abroad.
(A) behooved
(B) **besieged**
(C) pleased
(D) straightened
6. When summer comes, the sun is no benediction here.
(A) disaster
(B) catastrophe
(C) cataclysm
(D) **blessing**
7. All the children in the neighborhood will be the beneficiaries of the new playground.
(A) benefactors
(B) profiteers
(C) **receivers**
(D) belles
8. They organized a benevolent club to help the underprivileged.
(A) malevolent
(B) malicious
(C) **charitable**
(D) niggardly

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