

## IELTS General Reading Practice Test 33

### The Earth

A The Earth is the third planet from the Sun and it is the only planet known to have life on it. The Earth formed around 4.5 billion years ago. It is one of four rocky planets on the inside of the Solar System. The other three are Mercury, Venus, and Mars.

B The large mass of the Sun makes the Earth move around it, just as the mass of the Earth makes the Moon move around it. The Earth also turns round in space, so different parts face the Sun at different times. The Earth goes around the Sun once (one "year") for every 365¼ times it turns all the way around (one "day").

C The Moon goes around the Earth about every 27⅓ days and reflects light from the Sun. As the Earth goes round the Sun at the same time, the changing light of the Moon takes about 29½ days to go from dark to bright to dark again. That is where the idea of "month" came from. However, now most months have 30 or 31 days so they fit into one year.

D The Earth is the only planet in our Solar System that has a large amount of liquid water. About 71% of the surface of the Earth is covered by oceans. Because of this, it is sometimes called the "Blue Planet".

E Because of its water, the Earth is home to millions of species of plants and animals. The things that live on Earth have changed its surface greatly. For example, early cyanobacteria changed the air and gave it oxygen. The living part of the Earth's surface is called the "biosphere".

F The Earth is part of the eight planets and many thousands of small bodies that move around the Sun as its Solar System. The Solar System is moving through the Orion Arm of the Milky Way Galaxy now and will be for about the next 10,000 years.

G The Earth is generally 150,000,000 kilometers or 93,000,000 miles away from the Sun (this distance is named an "Astronomical Unit"). The Earth moves along its way at an average speed of about 30 km or 19 mi a second. The Earth turns all the way around about 365¼ times in the time it takes for the Earth to go all the way around the Sun. To make up this extra bit of a day every year, an additional day is used every four years. This is named a "leap year".

H The Moon goes around the Earth at an average distance of 400,000 kilometers (250,000 mi). It is locked to Earth so that it always has the same half facing the Earth; the other half is called the "dark side of the Moon". It takes about 27⅓ days for the Moon to go all the way around the Earth but, because the Earth is moving around the Sun at the same time, it takes about 29½ days for the Moon to go from dark to bright to dark again. This is where the word "month" came from, even though most months now have 30 or 31 days.

Questions 1–8: The Reading Passage has eight paragraphs A–H. Which paragraph contains the following information? Write the correct letter, A–H.

1. Earth's natural satellite
2. Distance between Earth and Sun
3. General information about Earth
4. The Solar System
5. Length of most months
6. Another name for Earth
7. The living part of the Earth's surface
8. The movements of Earth around the Sun

Questions 9–13: Complete the sentences below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.

9. Apart from Earth, other rocky planets in our Solar Systems are Venus, Mars and .
10. Moon from the Sun on Earth.
11. There are millions of of plants and animals that inhabit Earth.
12. Now the Solar System is traveling through .
13. The dark side of the Moon is the side, which faces Earth.

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**Questions 1-6: Do the following statements agree with the information given in the Reading Passage? Answer True, False or Not given.**

**True: if the statement agrees with the information**

**False: if the statement contradicts the information**

**Not given: if there is no information on this**

- 1. You can work through parts of a course more than once.**
- 2. The number of courses offered by LearnEnglish has increased enormously.**
- 3. Many staff members have worked through a LearnEnglish course themselves.**
- 4. You may have to pay to take a LearnEnglish course.**
- 5. Everybody takes the same taster lesson.**
- 6. LearnEnglish centres are open seven days a week.**