

Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

**"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES
FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"**

breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html

**Thousands more free lessons
from Sean's other websites**

www.freematerials.com/sean_banville_lessons.html

Level 5 – 5th August 2024

18-km wide diamond layer on Mercury, says study

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-5.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

X (Twitter)



[X.com/SeanBanville](https://x.com/SeanBanville)

Facebook



www.facebook.com/pages/BreakingNewsEnglish/155625444452176

THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-5.html>

Movie star Marilyn Monroe once famously sang, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend". Scientists in Belgium believe they have unearthed an 18-km wide layer of these precious stones, on Mercury. Our nearest planetary neighbour could be a celestial jewel. Researchers tested how Mercury formed, 4.5 billion years ago. Mercury evolved from a spinning cloud of dust and gas. Over millions of years, the dust was compressed into graphite. It is unlikely that Mercury's diamonds could ever be mined. This is because they are 500 km below the planet's surface.

Researchers used a special machine to simulate the conditions under which Mercury formed. The machine is used to make synthetic diamonds. Researchers made a mixture of silicon, magnesium and aluminium inside a graphite capsule. This was subjected to pressure 70,000 times greater than Earth's. It was heated to temperatures of 2,000°C. A researcher speculated about the diamonds on Mercury. He said: "They would [resemble] pure diamonds." Scientists believe there are a quadrillion tons of diamonds beneath the Earth.

Sources: <https://boingboing.net/2024/08/01/mercury-may-have-11-mile-deep-layer-of-diamonds.html>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/07/31/science/mercury-diamond-underground-layer/index.html>
<https://news.sky.com/story/mercury-has-a-layer-of-diamond-up-to-10-miles-thick-scientists-suggest-13184660>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Diamonds are a girl's | a. neighbour |
| 2. they have unearthed | b. into graphite |
| 3. precious | c. planet's surface |
| 4. Our nearest planetary | d. of dust and gas |
| 5. a celestial | e. best friend |
| 6. evolved from a spinning cloud | f. jewel |
| 7. the dust was compressed | g. an 18-km wide layer |
| 8. they are 500 km below the | h. stones |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. simulate the conditions under | a. mixture |
| 2. The machine is used to make | b. of 2,000°C |
| 3. Researchers made a | c. capsule |
| 4. inside a graphite | d. resemble pure diamonds |
| 5. pressure 70,000 times | e. which Mercury formed |
| 6. It was heated to temperatures | f. tons of diamonds |
| 7. They would | g. synthetic diamonds |
| 8. there are a quadrillion | h. greater than Earth's |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-5.html>

Movie star Marilyn Monroe (1) _____, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend". Scientists in Belgium believe they have unearthed an 18-km wide layer of (2) _____, on Mercury. Our nearest planetary neighbour could be (3) _____. Researchers tested how Mercury formed, 4.5 billion years ago. Mercury evolved from (4) _____ of dust and gas. Over millions of years, the (5) _____ into graphite. It is unlikely that Mercury's diamonds could ever be mined. This is because they are 500 km below (6) _____.

Researchers used a special machine to (7) _____ under which Mercury formed. The machine is used to (8) _____. Researchers made a mixture of silicon, magnesium and aluminium inside (9) _____. This was subjected to pressure 70,000 times greater than Earth's. It was (10) _____ of 2,000°C. A researcher speculated about the diamonds on Mercury. He said: "They (11) _____ diamonds." Scientists believe there are (12) _____ of diamonds beneath the Earth.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-5.html>

Moviestar Marilyn Monroe once famously sang, "Diamonds are a girl's best friend". Scientists in Belgium believe they have unearthed an 18-km wide layer of these precious stones, on Mercury. Our nearest planetary neighbour could be a celestial jewel. Researchers tested how Mercury formed, 4.5 billion years ago. Mercury evolved from a spinning cloud of dust and gas. Over millions of years, the dust was compressed into graphite. It is unlikely that Mercury's diamonds could ever be mined. This is because they are 500 km below the planet's surface. Researchers used a special machine to simulate the conditions under which Mercury formed. The machine is used to make synthetic diamonds. Researchers made a mixture of silicon, magnesium and aluminium inside a graphite capsule. This was subjected to pressure 70,000 times greater than Earth's. It was heated to temperatures of 2,000°C. A researcher speculated about the diamonds on Mercury. He said: "They would [resemble] pure diamonds." Scientists believe there are a quadrillion tons of diamonds beneath the Earth.

DIAMONDS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2408/240805-mercury-diamonds-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about diamonds in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

18-km wide diamond layer on Mercury, says study – 5th August 2024
More free lessons at breakingnewsenglish.com

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

