

Gap-fill exercise from Cambridge IELTS book 8

Read the following paragraphs from a passage about scientists trying to control lightning:

In the 1960s, researchers tried firing rockets trailing wires into thunderclouds to set up an easy discharge path for the huge electric charges that these clouds generate. But while rockets are fine for research, they cannot provide the protection from lightning strikes that everyone is looking for. And anyway, who would want to fire streams of rockets in a populated area? What goes up must come down.

Another project is trying to use lasers to discharge lightning safely. The idea began some 20 years ago, when high-powered lasers were revealing their ability to extract electrons out of atoms and create ions. If a laser could generate a line of ionisation in the air all the way up to a storm cloud, this conducting path could be used to guide lightning to Earth. To stop the laser itself being struck, it would not be pointed straight at the clouds. Instead it would be directed at a mirror, and from there into the sky. Ideally, the cloud-zapper (gun) would be cheap enough to be installed around all key power installations.

Complete the following summary using words from the box below it.

In this method, a laser is used to create a line of ionisation by removing electrons from 1)..... . This laser is then directed at 2)..... in order to control electrical charges, a method which is less dangerous than using 3)..... . As a protection for the lasers, the beams are aimed firstly at 4)..... .

A cloud-zappers

D mirrors

G rockets

B atoms

E technique

H conductors

C storm clouds

F ions

I thunder

Notes:

- To make this exercise a little easier, the passage has been made shorter, with irrelevant sentences removed.
- Gap-fill answers are almost always in the correct order in the passage. However, one of the answers above is **not in order** with the others.