

Progress Monitoring Probe 9

Taking Off

Carl buckled his seat belt and pushed his backpack under the seat in front of him. “How much longer until the plane takes off?” he asked his mother eagerly. Carl and his mother were embarking on an adventure to another state to visit his grandparents. The flight, which would be Carl’s first airplane trip, would last about three hours.

Carl’s mother glanced at her watch and replied, “I think it will be about ten more minutes, Carl. I know you’re excited, but be patient because it won’t be long.”

Carl looked up and down the aisle of the plane and saw the other passengers searching for their seats. As he watched them push suitcases into overhead compartments, he considered his mother’s words. He knew that she was right. He was very excited about taking his first trip on an airplane, but he was also frightened, especially about taking off. He just hoped he could keep his anxiety under control until the plane was in the air after takeoff.

A few minutes later, the airplane rolled onto the taxiway and pulled behind a long line of planes waiting to take off. Carl nervously looked out the window and watched the planes at the front of the line soar into the air, one after another. Deciding that they looked like giant birds, Carl let out a breath and began to relax.

A few seconds later, Carl’s plane reached the front of the line and stopped. Then, it jerked, and with a loud rushing noise, began racing down the runway. To Carl, it felt as if he was riding in a huge car that was speeding along a long, straight highway. Then he felt the plane’s wheels lift off the ground and the plane

Taking Off (Continued)

glide smoothly upward. He smiled as he watched his town grow smaller and smaller in the distance.

About thirty minutes later, a woman and a man pushed a large cart down the aisle and offered Carl and his mother a snack. While Carl ate his bag of pretzels and sipped his orange juice, he became very quiet. “Mom,” he finally said, “how do people learn to work with airplanes?”

Total words: _____ – errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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