FLYING

"Did you ever notice that the first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone?"

Erma Bombeck (1927 – 1996), American humourist

1. Flying Discussion

1. When was the first time you flew in a plane? Where did you go? How did you feel?
2. What do you enjoy most about flying? What do you hate about flying?
3. What are your favourite airlines? What are you least favourite airlines?
4. What do you like to do in airports? What do you usually buy from the duty-free shop? What's the best airport you've been to? What was the worst?
5. Do you usually arrive at the airport very early, or do you usually arrive with little time to spare?
6. When you are given the choice, do you prefer to take the window or aisle seat? Why?
7. What's the difference between business/first class and economy class?
8. What do you like to do while you are flying on a plane? What do you think about the onboard entertainment? What do you think about the food served on flights?

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2. Flying Vocabulary

- **red-eye flight** (noun) – *a flight that departs late at night and arrives in the morning.*
- **turbulence** (noun) – *sudden and strong movements of a plane due to air currents.*
- **flight attendant** (noun) / **cabin crew** (collective noun) – *the professionals who provide service on a flight.*
- **budget/low-cost airline** (noun) – *an airline that offers cheaper flights with minimal services.*
- **stopover** (noun) – *a short stay in a place; a break in a journey, especially a flight.*
- **emergency landing** (noun) – *when a plane experiences problems and has to make an irregular landing.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. As the plane went through **turbulence**, one of the bags fell out of the overhead compartment.
2. **Budget airlines** have started to charge $1 to use the bathroom as they consider this an additional service.
3. I took a **red-eye flight** from London to New York, but it was terrible because I couldn't sleep.
4. On my way back from Miami, I had a **stopover** in Paris which allowed me to visit the Eiffel Tower.
5. The plane was forced to make an **emergency landing** after one of the wings fell off mid-flight.
6. You should always listen to the **flight attendants/cabin crew** when they give the pre-flight safety demonstration.

Flying vocabulary comprehension questions

1. If you are taking a long flight, would you prefer it to be a red-eye flight or a flight during the day? Why?
2. Have you ever experienced bad turbulence? How did you feel?
3. Would you like to work as a flight attendant? What do you think the pros and cons of this job are?
4. What are the differences between budget airlines and more expensive ones?
5. Have you ever had a stopover? If not, would this be a good way to quickly see a different place?
6. What are the passenger procedures for an emergency landing?

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3. Video: Can Flying Go Green?

You are going to watch a video by The Economist called "Can flying go green?"

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-flying/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What is the aviation industry's biggest challenge?

   a) shorter flight times *b) cheaper flights* ***c) reducing pollution***

2. What is the by-product of the hydrogen-powered plane?

   a) H2O *b) CO2* *c) O2*

3. When could the aviation industry be responsible for 22% of the world's carbon emissions?

   a) by 2040 ***b) by 2050*** *c) by 2060*

4. When will Airbus introduce planes that burn hydrogen as fuel?

   a) within 5 years ***b) within 15 years*** *c) within 50 years*

Sentence completion

5. According to studies by the EU, hydrogen fuel could reduce the aviation industry's **carbon emissions** by up to 75%.
6. It will cost a lot of money to install the necessary **infrastructure** to produce and supply hydrogen.
7. In order to be sustainable, hydrogen must be produced using **renewable** energy.
8. A significant problem for the aviation industry is that **green technologies** are extremely expensive.

Short answer

9. What crisis has hit the cashflows of airlines? **Covid-19**
10. What type of sustainable fuel could airlines use in the short term before hydrogen fuel is available? **Biofuel**
11. What might governments put on dirty fuels? **Taxes**
12. How many more times expensive is sustainable fuel compared to regular jet fuel? **3 times**

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4. Flying Conversation Questions

1. What problems can people have at the airport?
2. Have you ever lost any luggage while flying? Have you ever missed a flight? Have you ever had a flight cancelled?
3. Do you think airport security procedures are necessary or a waste of time? What items can you not take in your carry-on bag?
4. Should larger people have to pay for two seats?
5. Do you think flying is safe? Do you ever get scared of flying? Is it safer or more dangerous than walking or driving a car?
6. What effect does flying have on the environment? How could these effects be reduced?
7. Do you ever feel guilty about flying because of the effect on the environment? What are some alternatives to flying that are more environmentally friendly?
8. Is it more important for all people to have the opportunity to see the world at an affordable price or to reduce the number of flights people take by increasing the price of flights?

5. Flying Writing Task

Write about your opinion of flying. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What you like to do at airports.
- What you like to do on the plane.
- How flying affects the environment.

Alternative exam practice question:

Cheap flights mean that more people are flying than ever before which has had a devastating effect on the environment. To solve this problem, cheap flights must be banned or heavily taxed to reduce the number of airline passengers. To what extend do you agree or disagree?

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