

I. Put the verbs of the text in the correct form of the Past Simple.



II. Synonyms: Join the words or phrases that mean the same:

aircraft	dispose of
W. Shakespeare	mention
release	take off
get rid of	plane
take flight	The Bard
talk about	set free

The Bard Responsible for Plane Crash

On October 4th 1960, a Lockheed L-188 Electra aircraft _____ (take) off from Logan International Airport in Boston to travel to Philadelphia, Charlotte and Atlanta. It never _____ (arrive) to any of its destinations. The plane's takeoff _____ (make) a flock of starlings on the runway take flight too, and six seconds after liftoff the aeroplane _____ (fly) into a cloud of 10,000 birds. The engines _____ (suck) birds in and the plane _____ (crash). 62 of 72 passengers and crew _____ (die) in the accident; 9 of the survivors _____ (have) serious injuries.

The European starlings that _____ (bring) the plane down _____ (be) not native to North America. In 1890 an eccentric drug manufacturer and amateur ornithologist named Eugene Schieffelin _____ (import) about 60 starlings from England and _____ (set) them free in New York City's Central Park. In 1891 he _____ (release) 40 more. Schieffelin _____ (hope) to introduce into North America every bird Shakespeare _____ (talk) about. The introduction of the birds _____ (be) successful - too successful. Scientists believe that there are now more than 200 million starlings in the USA. They are a disaster for the ecosystem and the economy: they bully native birds and take their nest holes in trees; they eat huge amounts of seed and fruit; their droppings cause a lot of diseases. The US government _____ (spend) millions of dollars to get rid of them but everything they _____ (try) to dispose of them has failed.

Shakespeare _____ (mention) starlings only once. In "Henry IV Part One" the king _____ (order) Hotspur not to say the name of Mortimer. Hotspur _____ (reply) that he would train a starling to sing it in the king's ear all the time. This one word that William Shakespeare _____ (write) in about 1597, certainly _____ (cause) more tragedy than he ever _____ (imagine)...

Sources: The Times, The Telegraph, Wikipedia

III. Write questions so that the answers are the parts of the sentences that are in **bold and underlined**.

- _____
- The plane crashed on October 4th 1960.
- _____
- The accident happened in Boston.
- _____
- The plane flew into a flock of starlings.
- _____
- The plane went down because birds got sucked into its engines.
- _____
- 62 people died.
- _____
- Eugene Schieffelin brought the starlings to North America.
- _____
- Schieffelin liked Shakespeare's plays.
- _____
- Introducing the starlings to America was very successful.
- _____
- The U.S. government spent millions of dollars to get rid of the starlings.
- _____
- Shakespeare mentioned starlings once in his plays.

IV. Select T for True or F for False.

- * The word "starling" appears only two times in Shakespeare's plays T / F
- * Schieffelin set about 200 million birds free.
T / F
- * When the Europeans first came to America there weren't any starlings.
T / F
- * The flight was from Boston to Logan.
T / F
- * Ten of the people on board the plane did not die. T / F
- * Schieffelin released the birds because he wanted to destroy the ecosystem. T / F
- * Starlings stop other birds from making nests. T / F