

## Lesson 14 - Reading - Transport and Tourism - BTVN

6 Read the sentences 1–5. Then read the statements a–c and write YES if the statement is expressed in the text, NO if it contradicts the statement and NG (not given) if the information is not in the sentence.

- 1 One traveller in five is avoiding travel agents and buying holidays from home.
  - a Twenty per cent of people are staying at home rather than booking a holiday through a travel agent. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b Twenty per cent of travellers have had bad experiences with travel agents. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c Twenty per cent of travellers are booking their holidays directly, without help from travel professionals. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Holiday companies say that customers are becoming more confident about booking packages by phone or over the Internet.
  - a Travel agents have noticed that their customers are more confident than they used to be. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b Travel agencies have noticed that people now feel more able to book their holidays online or by phone. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c More holidays are booked by phone or over the Internet than by travel agents. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 This puts increasing pressure on Britain's estimated 9,000 agents, which have already been suffering from competition from low-cost airlines.
  - a The British travel industry has had some setbacks. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b Travel agents do not understand that competition can be positive. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c After competition from low-cost airlines, business is now getting better for travel agents. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The sales and marketing director of the Cosmos company said that travel agents will have to be faster on their feet and closer to their customers to survive.
  - a The sales and marketing director thinks that travel agents have always been slow to react. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b The sales and marketing director thinks that travel agents are at risk of having to close. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c The sales and marketing director thinks that travel agents react quickly to customers' needs. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 He added that in five years there will probably be a third fewer travel agents than now.
  - a He said that there may be some more travel agencies in the future. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b Five years from now, there are likely to be two thirds of the amount of travel agents there are now. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c In the next decade a lot of travel agencies will go bankrupt. \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Exam practice

Read the following passage. Do the statements agree with the views of the writer? Write:

- **YES** if the statement agrees with the views of the writer.
- **NO** if the statement contradicts what the writer thinks.
- **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to know what the writer's point of view is.

- 1 The route between Papa Westray and Westray is officially the shortest scheduled domestic flight in the world.
- 2 There is more than a mile between Papa Westray and Westray.
- 3 Loganair does not charge to fly Westray Junior High pupils to school.
- 4 Pupils from Papa Westray and from Westray go to Orkney to study for their Highers.
- 5 The airline claims that the flight is useful for tourists as well as residents.
- 6 Music, art, craft, physical education and home economics are rarely taught on the islands.

Some children moan about having to get a bus to school. Six teenagers on a remote Scottish island, however, have the rather more exciting prospect of going to school by plane on what is believed to be the world's shortest domestic flight.

The journey from Papa Westray to Westray in the Orkney Islands takes 96 seconds, covering a distance of just over a mile. With a tail wind, it can take as little as 47 seconds. Normally the teenagers go by ferry but when the vessel was taken out of service for refurbishment, Loganair, an airline company, stepped in and offered to fly them to Westray Junior High.

Six students, all aged 13-14, will be flown to and from school until the end of the year when the ferry, the Golden Mariana, is scheduled to return, Loganair said.

Papa Westray has a population of 70 and no secondary school. Westray, home to more than 600 residents, has about 70 pupils enrolled at the junior high and nine full-time teachers. The school provides education to Standard Grade level. The six teenagers from Papa Westray take the flight every Tuesday morning, stay with host families for two nights and then catch a return flight on Thursday after school. Pupils from either island choosing to study for their **Highers\*** must travel to Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney.

Loganair, which operates the eight-seater service in an Islander plane, has changed its schedule to ensure that the children get to school on time. The company said that the flight was the shortest in the world and with favourable tail winds could be over in less than a minute. The distance is shorter than the length of the main runway at Edinburgh Airport.

Jonathan Hinkles, the commercial director of the airline, said: 'While it is a popular tourist route for many visitors to Scotland, it is also a vital lifeline for those residents who live, work or do business in the Orkneys and it will make all the difference to ensuring that those children who live on Papa Westray can continue their schooling throughout the winter months.'

Willie McEwen, acting head teacher at Westray Junior High, said: 'We're delighted that Loganair has come forward with this solution. Our children will enjoy the flying especially as, at this time of the year, it can be quite rough on the boat. This kind of flexibility is an essential part of island life and the youngsters take it all in their stride.'

The Islander air service, which carries around 20,000 passengers each year, is critical for local residents during the winter months. It delivers food, mail and newspapers, and provides a lifeline between the islands and Kirkwall on mainland Orkney.

In addition, Loganair regularly carries visiting teachers out to the islands to lead lessons in subjects including music, art, craft, physical education and home economics.

The Guinness World Records said that it did not recognise the world's shortest scheduled domestic flight. "The category is currently under research," a spokesman said.

#### Glossary:

**Highers:** national school-leaving exams in Scotland

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