3 READING

A **Make predictions.** Look at the photo and read the title and the first sentence in the first paragraph. Answer the questions.

1. What is this man's job?
2. He did something risky. What was it? Guess: Was this experience hard?

B **Read for details.** Read the entire article. Choose the correct answers below. Underline the information in the reading that helped you choose your answers.

1. Irving flies because _____.
   a. it's a good job
   b. he likes the feeling of flying
2. Irving didn't go back to Japan because _____.
   a. he didn't have enough gas
   b. his plane stopped
3. The radio pilots asked for Irving's parents' phone number because they _____.
   a. thought Irving might die
   b. wanted to help Irving
4. Irving says the difficult flying experience _____.
   a. taught him a lot b. was exciting
5. Which sentence would Irving agree with?
   a. It's always better to play it safe. You don't always have to succeed.
   b. When things are hard, keep trying. You can succeed.

C **Infer meaning.** Complete the sentences with the best answer.

1. In line 17, *challenging* means hard / exciting / long.
2. In line 24, *give up* means continue / quit / talk.
3. In line 27, Irving says *I made it.* This means "I did something successfully / poorly / slowly."

D Look at your answer to question 5 in **B**. Do you agree with Irving? Why or why not? Tell a partner.

DARING PILOT

At age 23, Barrington Irving became the youngest person to fly alone around the world—in a small plane he built himself. Since then, he started a company called Experience Aviation. It helps students learn about flying and other subjects, like science and math. Students can study in the "Flying Classroom" or learn how to build cars.

Here, Barrington Irving talks about his love of flying and his flight around the world.

Why do you fly?

I love being in the air between the sky and the Earth. It's exciting, but I also feel very calm.

Are you ever afraid?

Yes, I was very afraid one time. It was during my flight around the world. I had to fly from Japan to a small island called Shemya, near Alaska. The flight was challenging. It was very windy, and then there was a bad storm. At one point, the radio pilots on the ground sent me a message. They said, "You have to go back to Japan." And I said, "I don't have enough fuel[1] to go back." It was risky to continue, but I took a chance and kept going. The radio pilots asked for my parents' phone number. It was the end for me, they thought, but I didn't give up. When I got to Shemya Island, I had 12 minutes of fuel left.

What a frightening[2] experience!

Yes, it was, but I got to Shemya safely. I made it. And I learned a lot about flying.

[1]*Fuel* here means gas.
[2]If something is *frightening*, you feel very afraid.

Barrington Irving crouches in front of his plane.

LIVEWORKSHEETS