

FLIGHT OF THE SILVER QUEEN



1. The article about the journey is in the wrong order. Number the paragraphs 1 to 4.

A __

It was a long and dangerous journey. Van Ryneveld and Quintin Brand flew in a plane called the Silver Queen. They travelled from England to Italy. Then, a few days later, they took off again for Egypt. They didn't stop over the Mediterranean Sea and landed the next day in Cairo.

B __

Eventually, 44 days later, they landed in Cape Town and won. However, the newspaper didn't give them €10,000, but only €5,000. This was because they didn't use the same plane for the whole journey. But it was still an incredible journey.

C __

In 1920, a British newspaper offered €10,000 to fly from England to South Africa. Five aeroplane entered the competition, but four aeroplanes didn't finish the journey. The pilots Pierre Van Ryneveld and Quintin Brand finally landed in Cape Town and won the race.

D __

Through Africa, they had a lot of mechanical problems with the plane and its engine. The worst problem was in Bulawayo. The Silver Queen couldn't take off so in the end they changed their plane for a different one.

2. Read the article again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1) The journey was in 1920. __
- 2) All the aeroplanes landed in Cape Town. __
- 3) The first part of the journey was from England to Italy. __
- 4) Van Ryneveld and Brand stopped between Italy and Cairo. __
- 5) They didn't have any problems with the plane's engine. __
- 6) They left Bulawayo in the Silver Queen. __
- 7) The journey took 44 days. __
- 8) They received €10,000 from the newspaper. __

3. Discuss these questions.

- 1) Why do you think these pilots went on these journeys?
- 2) Would you like to go on a similar journey?