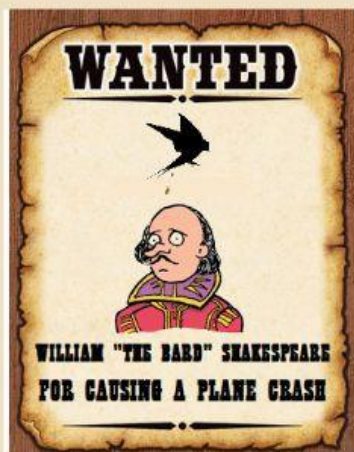


1. Put the verbs of the text in the correct form of the Past Simple.



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 4<sup>th</sup> 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