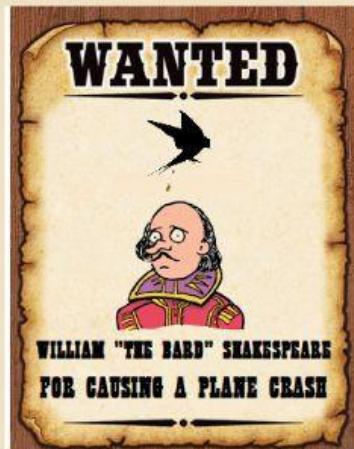


I. Put the verbs of the text in the correct form of the Past Simple.



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 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