Reading Ex. > The Australian Airline

A. Read the following passage. Choose from the sentences (A-J) below which one best fits each gap. There ARE TWO EXTRA SENTENCES which you will not need to use.

The Australian airline Qantas was founded in 1920. **Q**ueensland **a**nd **N**orthern **T**erritories **A**erial **S**ervices, from which the word Qantas derives, is the longest-serving airline in the English-speaking world and the second longest-serving airline world-wide. (1) ____

The airline was formed by two former Australian Flying Corps officers, W. Hudson Fysh and P. J. McGinness. They were keen to enter a contest with a prize of $10,000 for the first Australian to fly from England to Australia in less than 28 days. Unfortunately, they were prevented from entering the race by the death of the man who had offered to provide money to pay their expenses. (2) ____

It took Fysh and McGinness fifty-one days to plan the route, travelling by car through the thinly populated territory on poorly built roads that were often flooded in the wet season. (3) ____

After a meeting with Fergus McMaster, a rich cattle farmer who agreed to give them financial support, Fysh and McGinness were on their way to making their dream of connecting far-distant parts of the continent by air a reality. (4) ____

On November 2, 1922, a larger plane was bought by Qantas and the airline's first regular mail and passenger flights began between Charleville and Cloncurry. Qantas' services grew in the 1920s. An important landmark along the way came in 1928 when Qantas was contracted to operate the first flying doctor service to sick people in remote parts of the country. (5) ____

In 1934 the airline changed its name to *Qantas Empire Airways Ltd*, reflecting its desire to expand beyond the borders of Australia. Air mail services first to Singapore and soon after to Britain began in 1935. (6) ____

In 1947 Qantas became a national airline when the government purchased the company. In December of that year the airline's first passenger service between Sydney and London was introduced. (7) ____

Important changes in the airline industry announced in 1992 meant that aviation reforms would result in Qantas and Australian, the airline which linked cities within Australia, becoming one. (8) ____

A In the following years more overseas passenger services were introduced linking Australia with countries all over the world –Japan, Hong Kong, South Africa, or the United States.

B Australian were at first in favor of joining Qantas but eventually decided to remain independent.

C However, they were asked by the government to plan a route and landing sites across the Northern Territory and Western Australia that would be used for the race.

D The service flew 255 patients more than 30,000 kilometers in its first year.

E Although it is now well-respected as an international carrier which flies people around the world in style, the airline's origins were rather humbler.

F Qantas bought Australian and agreed to the new name: Qantas, The Australian Airline.

G In the same year the airline carried its first overseas passenger on a flight from Brisbane to Singapore.

H In 1920 they bought their first plane and then a second one soon after and for the first two years of Qantas life, the planes were used as an air taxi service and for pleasure flights.

I Their experience on the journey convinced them that air travel was a necessity in such a huge country with often inhospitable terrain.

J Unfortunately, there was not a route, which made their plan a bit difficult to complete.

Level B1

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