

READING COMPREHENSION

A. Read the article about perceptions of risk between men and women when driving. Five sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences A-F the one which fits each gap (1-5). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

- A Mr Vroom flew so often that he knew the planes better than most of the cabin crews
- B In a period of 20 years, he estimates that he flew a staggering 38 million miles
- C Although he believes he hadn't done anything wrong, American Airlines disagreed.
- D He worked as a catalogue sales representative.
- E On top of that, the ticket holder could also collect airmiles each time they flew
- F The AAirpass quickly paid for itself.

The ultimate frequent flyer

Jack Vroom, an American businessman from Dallas, Texas, has made a claim as the ultimate frequent flyer. (1) Even more amazingly, he did this without paying for any of the flights. But after having flown enough times to go round the world 1,600 times, Mr Vroom has now been banned from flying on American Airlines.

Mr Vroom's adventure began in 1988, when a friend told him about a unique opportunity. American Airlines were selling an unlimited, life-long first-class travel pass called the AAirpass. For a fee of \$350,000 plus interest, the ticket-holder and one companion could fly first-class anywhere, whenever they wanted, and as much as they wanted. (2) Although they were expensive, American Airlines sold a total of 40 tickets, before they stopped issuing them in 2004.

The pass was designed mostly for business use, but Jack Vroom decided to use it all the time. (3) He would fly across the USA to watch his son play American football at university, or to pick up his father-in-law from Washington DC so he could babysit his children. He told friends it was cheaper than paying for a local babysitter. He would also go abroad too, often just for a few hours. He flew to Milan to pick up some parts for a motorbike, and to Guadalajara, Mexico, just to buy some belts. (4) He didn't even need to show his pass, and everyone at his local airport knew him by name.

His adventure came to end, though, in 2009 on a flight back from London. He had used his companion pass to fly his daughter's friend back to the US, but when they arrived at Heathrow airport, Mr Vroom was taken to the VIP lounge and was given a letter saying that he could never use the ticket again. (5) When they checked who he was flying with, they noticed he booked trips with people he had never flown with before. They also noticed he would fly to far-away destinations in Europe and Asia, but only stay for a few hours. They accused him of selling his companion ticket, which was against the rules. His frequent flying was also costing the airline millions of dollars a year.

Mr Vroom disagrees with the decision, and believes there was nothing written anywhere which said he wasn't allowed to gain compensation from his companion ticket. He believes that any money made was for his business services, or simply because friends wanted to pay him for the flight.

These days, Mr Vroom stays on the ground, working as a teacher and giving lectures in his house in the city of Dallas in the United States.

B. Answer:

1. How many times has Mr Vroom flown around the world? _____
2. What is the AAirpass? _____
3. Where did he get some parts for a motorbike? _____
4. When did his adventure end? _____
5. What does Mr Vroom do now? _____

