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3A Homework

1 READING

a Read the text once. What did the four incidents have in common?

A They all happened before the plane took off.
B They all happened during the flight.
C They all happened during the summer.
D None of the above.

b Read the text again and complete it with the missing sentences. There is one sentence you do not have to use.

A Unfortunately, they did this incredibly slowly, and no planes could take off until they had completed their journey.

B Somehow, the animals managed to open the box and jump out of the hold of the plane onto the runway.

C The pilot spoke to the passengers, who were very angry, to try to calm them down.

D The cancellation announcement was made when the 169 passengers were waiting to board at the gate.

E However, there was thick fog at the time, and so the flight was diverted to Liege in Belgium, about 180 miles away.

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c Look at the highlighted words and phrases in the text and try to figure out their meaning. Then match them to definitions 1–7.

1 arrive _____
2 the part of an aircraft where goods are stored _____
3 something that you can choose to do _____
4 incidents that make it difficult for something to continue in the usual way _____
5 arranged to be done at a particular time _____
6 a period of time worked by a group of workers who start work as another group finishes _____
7 get off an aircraft _____

Why are we waiting?

The usual excuses for flight delays are bad weather, strikes, or technical faults, but sometimes problems are caused by more unexpected events. Below are some of the most unusual reasons for flight disruptions at the world's airports.

Where's the pilot?

In November 2011, an Air India flight had to be canceled in southern India because there was no one to fly the plane. [1]____ The pilot who was supposed to fly the plane refused to do so because he had already completed his shift. The airline called someone to substitute for him, but the second pilot did not turn up. In the end, half of the passengers took a different Air India flight and the rest had to travel on a different airline.



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Love is in the air

Last year, services were disrupted at New York's JFK Airport by a group of lovesick turtles. It seems that the turtles wanted to get from the area where they had been feeding to their breeding grounds, so they had no other option but to cross the runway. [2]____ Airport authorities say that this is not the first time that flights have been delayed by the turtles, but they can never predict exactly when the crossing will take place.

Passenger protest

In November 2010, Ryanair's flight schedule was interrupted by a protest by the people on board. Most of them were French tourists who had been on vacation in Morocco. The flight had already been delayed for three hours before it left Fez, Morocco, and so everyone was looking forward to arriving at Paris's Beauvais Airport. [3]____ When the plane landed, about 100 passengers demanded to be flown to Paris and refused to disembark. About four hours later, they were finally persuaded to leave the plane and board the buses that would take them to Paris.





The great escape

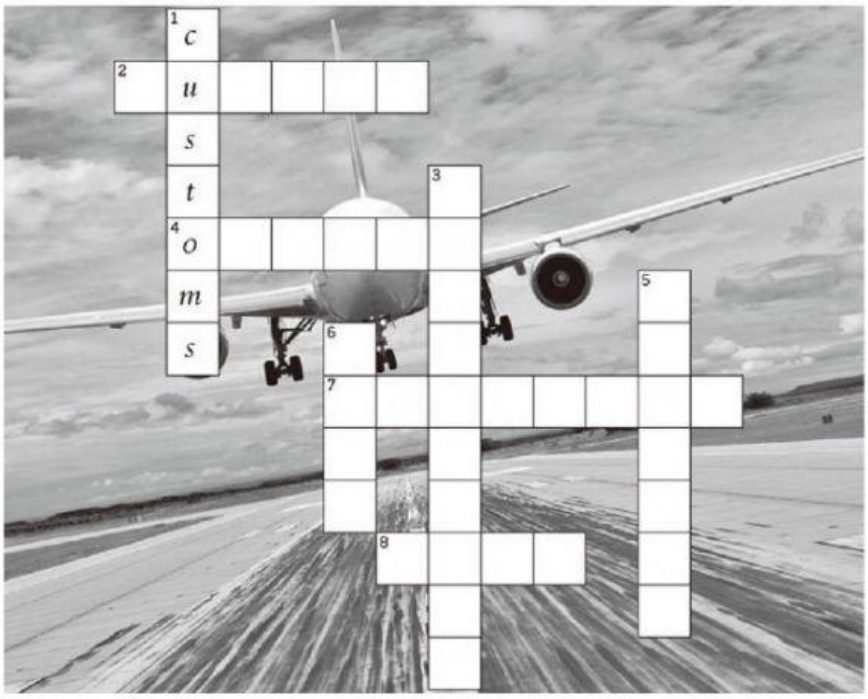
In December 2009, a Continental Airlines flight was delayed in Houston, in the US, because two animals had gotten out of their box in the hold. The animals were sea otters, a marine mammal with dense fur that lives in the northern and eastern parts of the Pacific Ocean. [4]____ Passengers had to wait 80 minutes for the sea otters to be caught before their plane could take off. Their flight was scheduled to leave for Columbus, Ohio, at 7:55 p.m., but they did not take off until 9:15 p.m.

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2 VOCABULARY air travel

a Complete the crossword.



1 All of the passengers on our flight were stopped at… for their bags to be checked.
2 We could see our plane on the…while we were waiting to board.
3 After we'd checked in, we went through to…to find the right gate.
4 Despite the rain, my plane took off…, exactly as scheduled.
5 My first flight was…for two hours, so I missed my connecting flight.
6 Our suitcases were really heavy, so we went to find a… to put them on.
7 When I got to the airport, I went straight to…to see if my mother's flight had landed yet.
8 The cabin…was very efficient when we had to make an emergency landing.

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b Complete the text with suitable words.

The worst trip I ever took was when I flew to New York last year. I arrived at the [1] t*erminal* in plenty of time, but when I got to the [2] ch_____-_____ desk, there was a huge line. By the time it was my turn, there were no [3] a_____ seats left, so I had to sit in the middle of a row. I showed my ID card to the man at passport control and then I went to [4] s_____ where I had my scissors confiscated. My [5] fl_____ was already boarding as soon as I arrived at the departure lounge, and I had to run to reach the gate in time. I sat next to a small child who screamed loudly when we [6] t_____ _____, and didn't stop screaming for the next two hours. The weather over the Atlantic was terrible and we experienced a lot of [7] t_____. I was so relieved when we finally landed in New York. The worst thing was that when I went to baggage claim to [8] p_____ _____ my baggage, I was told that my suitcase hadn't arrived. I spent my first two days in New York with no clothes!

3 MINI GRAMMAR *so / such...that*

(Circle) the correct answer.



1 Her suitcase was (so) / *such* heavy that she couldn't pick it up.



2 I've never had *such* / *such a* bumpy flight – there was a lot of turbulence.

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3 This is the first time we've had *a so long / such a long* delay at the airport.



4 The terminal was *so / such* crowded that we couldn't find a cart for our suitcases.



5 There was *so much / so many* traffic that we almost missed our flight.



6 There were *so / such* a lot of people at the airport because it was a holiday weekend.

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4 GRAMMAR past perfect continuous, narrative tenses

a Circle the correct verb form. Check (✓) if both are correct.

1 Tim's suitcase was really heavy because he *had packed* / *had been packing* all of his camera equipment.
2 Jessica was fed up because she *had waited* / *had been waiting* for three hours for her flight to board.
3 I *had been sitting* / *had sat* in departures for 20 minutes when I realized my flight was already boarding.
4 After I *had picked up* / *had been picking up* my baggage, I took a taxi to my hotel.
5 The kids were bored because we *had stood* / *had been standing* in line at check-in for over an hour.
6 My flight arrived late because it *hadn't taken off* / *hadn't been taking off* on time.

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b Complete the text with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

My parents [1] *had never flown* (never fly) before, and so they were very nervous when we [2] _____ (arrive) at Logan Airport to take our flight to Mexico. I [3] _____ (leave) them at the terminal building with instructions to get in line at the check-in desk while I [4] _____ (go) to park my car in the long-term parking lot. However, when I [5] _____ (get) to the check-in desk myself, they were nowhere in sight. I [6] _____ (look) for them everywhere until it suddenly occurred to me that they [7] _____ (already / check in) and they [8] _____ (wait) for me in the departure lounge. This was a real problem because I [9] _____ (give) my passport to my mother, so I couldn't check in.

I immediately [10] _____ (call) my parents on their cell phone. I was right; they [11] _____ (already / go) through to the departure lounge. They [12] _____ (wait) for me for almost half an hour at the gate. Luckily, my mom managed to find an understanding staff member who met me at the information desk with my passport!

5 PRONUNCIATION irregular past forms

a Put the irregular verbs in the box into the simple past. Then write them next to the simple past verbs 1–10 that have the same sound.

~~catch~~	cut	fly	meet	pay	say	sing	stand	tell	wake

1 bought	*caught*	6 spoke	_____
2 rang	_____	7 sold	_____
3 made	_____	8 knew	_____
4 let	_____	9 could	_____
5 shut	_____	10 read	_____

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USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

air traffic controller /ɛr 'træfɪk kən'troʊlər/
life jacket /'laɪf dʒækət/
safety demonstration /'seɪfti dɛmən'streɪʃn/
damage (noun and verb) /'dæmɪdʒ/
emergency /ɪ'mərdʒənsi/
engine /'ɛndʒən/
flight announcement /flaɪt ə'naʊnsmənt/
smuggle /'smʌgl/
wheelchair /'wiltʃɛr/
whistle /'wɪsl/

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