

Up in the Air

Activity 1

With your partner brainstorm as many different ways of flying as possible. For example: by plane, hang-glider, etc. Write your ideas below.

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Activity 2

Read the following list of actions and events which people can experience when travelling by air and put them in the correct order. The first one has been done for you.

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|---|--|
| A. Put your hand luggage in the overhead locker | I. Check in and get your boarding card |
| B. Go to the departure lounge | J. Sit down and fasten your seatbelt |
| C. Taxi to the runway | K. Queue at the gate |
| D. Queue at the check-in desk (1) | L. Go through passport control |
| E. Take off | M. Board the plane |
| F. Go through the security checks | N. Experience turbulence/hit an air pocket |
| G. Begin the descent | O. Have a bumpy/smooth landing |
| H. Be searched/Have your bag searched | P. Be delayed |

Activity 3

Read the following questions and use them to start a conversation with your partner.

1. Do you travel much by plane? How old were you the first time you flew? Did you enjoy it?
2. Have you ever flown by helicopter, glider, hot-air balloon, etc?
3. How safe do you feel on a plane?
4. Which aspects of flying do you a) most enjoy and b) least enjoy?
5. What is the worst thing that has ever happened to you during a flight?
6. Have you ever suffered delays at an airport or had a flight cancelled? What did you do?
7. Would you like to have a pilot's license? Would you be interested in flying large planes, small planes, helicopters or something else? Why?
8. What were you doing when you found out that the World Trade Centre twin towers had been hit by hijacked planes on September 11th, 2001?
9. How likely do you think it is that a similar terrorist incident involving a plane will happen again?
10. What changes do you think need to be made to air travel security measures in order to reduce the terrorist threat?
11. Would you feel safer with or without an armed guard on your flight when flying to a high-risk country?
12. What concerns you more when you fly: safety (for example, plane maintenance, technological faults or human errors) or security (for example, hijackings or bombings)?
13. How would life be different if people stopped travelling by plane? What are the disadvantages and the advantages of alternative means of travel?

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Activity 4

Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.

1. What do band leader Glenn Miller, boxer Rocky Marciano and John F. Kennedy Jr have in common?
2. Apart from the events of September 11th 2001, which aviation disaster cost the most lives?
3. Which company built the DC10 aircraft?
4. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 5

'Introducing strict anti-terrorist security measures at airports is as effective as rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic: there will be a disaster soon anyway.'
What do you think?

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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