

American man travels a million miles in 2012

23rd December, 2012



An American man flew one million miles in 2012. Tom Stuker, 59, passed the million mark on a flight from London to Chicago on December 6. Mr

Stuker works as a car sales consultant and has to fly all over the world. He frequently flies to Asia and Australia, and has taken about 400 flights so far this year. He always uses the U.S. airline United. He joined the company's frequent flyer program in 1983 and has since flown 11 million miles with United, on over 6,000 flights. A United Airlines spokesperson said that in 2012, Mr Stuker had flown the same distance as 40 times around the Earth. It added that if all of Mr Stuker's miles were put together, he would be in the air for 73 days non-stop.

Mr Stuker told reporters that 2012 was a record year for him and that he was "tired". He said: "I know I'll never fly this much again in a year." He said he is looking forward to flying a lot less next year - perhaps around half-a-million miles. Stuker said he likes flying but is sad that passengers are becoming less patient. He said: "When you're on a plane, remember certain common courtesies. Don't talk so loud on a phone that 18 rows can hear you. And when you take off your shoes, understand that maybe your feet don't exactly smell like roses." Mr Stuker always flies first class these days. He said he didn't think he could spend so long in economy class. He enjoys special services from United other passengers do not get.

Sources: *Business Insider* / *NBC* / *New York Times*

Writing

Many people say flying is the safest means of transportation. Discuss

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

one million / flight / frequently / airlines / distance / the Earth / 73 days / non-stop / record year / looking forward / passenger / patient / courtesies / roses / economy class

True / False

- The man who flew a million miles is an airline pilot. T / F
- The man took around 400 flights in 2012. T / F
- The guy has taken more than 6,000 flights with the same airline. T / F
- The frequent flyer once flew for 73 days non-stop. T / F
- He will probably fly even more in 2013. T / F
- The man believes airline passengers aren't so patient these days. T / F
- The man said his feet smelled like roses. T / F
- The man said he gets special services from an airline. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. mark | a. tolerant |
| 2. consultant | b. length |
| 3. frequently | c. benefits from |
| 4. distance | d. advisor |
| 5. non-stop | e. good manners |
| 6. record | f. level |
| 7. sad | g. continuously |
| 8. patient | h. unhappy |
| 9. courtesies | i. regularly |
| 10. enjoys | j. best ever |

Discussion - Student A

- What do you think of flying a million miles in a year?
- What are the best and worst things about flying?
- Is flying better than going by train, driving and going by ship?
- Do you like flying?
- What do you think it would be like to be a flight attendant?
- What do you think of airplane food?
- What's the best airline in the world, and why?
- Should United Airlines do something extra special for Mr Stuker? What?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. passed the million | a. 73 days non-stop |
| 2. a flight | b. courtesies |
| 3. frequent | c. mark |
| 4. the same distance as | d. services from United |
| 5. be in the air for | e. flyer program |
| 6. flying a lot | f. from London to Chicago |
| 7. passengers are becoming | g. smell like roses |
| 8. common | h. less next year |
| 9. your feet don't exactly | i. 40 times around the Earth |
| 10. He enjoys special | j. less patient |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of other passengers?
- Do you think people today are forgetting common courtesies?
- What do you think of people who talk loudly on their phones?
- What experiences have you had of other people's smelly feet?
- How different do you think first class is?
- Do you think flying first class isn't really flying?
- What can airlines do to make flying better?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Stuker?

Spelling

- Tom Stuker, 59, sspdæ the million mark
- taken about 400 tfisglh so far this year
- the company's nrqetfue flyer program
- A United Airlines snookepessrp said...
- flown the same tansidce
- in the air for 73 days pno-ntso
- 2012 was a crdore year
- he is looking owrafd to flying a lot less
- passengers are becoming less pentiat
- remember certain common esirtouesc
- your feet don't clyxtea smell like roses
- oyomecn class

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. g
6. j	7. h	8. a	9. e	10. c

Role Play

Frequent Flyer A - You think flying is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. You do not understand why other people do not like flying. Disagree with everything Frequent Flyer B says. You think flight attendants do a great job. Tell the others three reasons why. Airlines really look after passengers.

Frequent Flyer B - You think flying is the worst way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. You do not understand why other people like flying. Disagree with everything Frequent Flyer A says. You don't like flight attendants. Tell the others three reasons why. You think airlines treat people like sardines.

Flight Attendant A - You hate your job and you don't like passengers. Tell the others three reasons why. You think passengers are very badly behaved. They need to learn common courtesies. They forget their manners when they get on an airplane. Even good passengers make too much work for you.

Flight Attendant B - You love your job and you love helping passengers. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell flight attendant B he/she should quit his/her job. Try to make Flyer B that air travel is very nice. You know Frequent Flyer A has very bad manners. Tell him/her to behave better on airplanes.

Speaking - Flight

What's best about flying? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- airplane food
- in-flight entertainment
- drinks trolley
- duty-free shopping
- air miles
- a new passport visa
- arriving
- other passengers

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.