

## World airlines change cockpit rules

29th March, 2015



Airlines across the world have begun putting in place requirements for two crew members to always be present in the cockpit. The new measures come in the wake of the

Germanwings crash in the French Alps on Tuesday in which 150 people died. The swift response from airlines is because of the news that the co-pilot of the Germanwings flight had deliberately crashed the plane. Reports are that he locked the pilot out of the cockpit and set the aircraft on a collision course with a mountain. Britain's Monarch Airlines said having two pilots ever-present in the cockpit would now be mandatory on all its flights. Cabin crew will also regularly enter the flight deck during the flight to check on the pilots.

Airlines are also considering revamping their screening procedures to assess the mental health of pilots. There is speculation in the media that the Germanwings co-pilot was depressed. He had to stop his training seven years ago because he was suffering from depression and 'burnout'. His boss said the co-pilot had taken several months off work and had to retrain to join the company, but insisted he was "100 per cent fit to fly". News is also emerging of the final moments of Flight 9525. The pilot sensed something was wrong after he had gone to the toilet and realized he was locked out of the cockpit. There was "absolute silence" in the cockpit as the co-pilot steered the plane into the mountain.

Sources: BBC / ABC News / Daily Mail

## Writing

Flying is the safest form of travel in the world. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airlines / cabin crew / cockpit / response / co-pilot / mandatory / regularly / procedures / mental health / speculation / depression / burnout / absolute silence

## True / False

- All airlines must have two crew members in the cockpit at all times. T / F
- Airlines have responded slowly to the recent air tragedy. T / F
- A British airline says it will now require 2 crew members in the cockpit. T / F
- Monarch Airlines said the two crew members must both be pilots. T / F
- Airlines will also step up the screening of the mental health of pilots. T / F
- The Germanwings co-pilot had not flown for seven years. T / F
- The co-pilot had previously suffered from burnout. T / F
- There was a lot of noise in the cockpit in the flight's final moments. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. across         | a. crash          |
| 2. measures       | b. thinking about |
| 3. in the wake of | c. frequently     |
| 4. collision      | d. initiatives    |
| 5. regularly      | e. maintained     |
| 6. considering    | f. following      |
| 7. revamping      | g. felt           |
| 8. insisted       | h. all over       |
| 9. sensed         | i. total          |
| 10. absolute      | j. improving      |

## Discussion – Student A

- How difficult do you think it is to fly a plane?
- Should there always be two crew members in the cockpit?
- What would it be like to be a pilot?
- How safe do you think air travel is?
- What extra safety features should airplanes have?
- What are the best and worst things about flying?
- What do you think about remote-control, pilotless planes?
- What do you worry about when you fly?

## Phrase Match

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. two crew members to always be | a. course                 |
| 2. swift                         | b. to fly                 |
| 3. collision                     | c. deck                   |
| 4. cabin                         | d. procedures             |
| 5. flight                        | e. present in the cockpit |
| 6. revamping their screening     | f. something was wrong    |
| 7. he was suffering from         | g. silence                |
| 8. 100 per cent fit              | h. crew                   |
| 9. The pilot sensed              | i. depression and burnout |
| 10. absolute                     | j. response               |

## Discussion – Student B

- Why do you think pilots can experience 'burnout'?
- What do you think pilot training is like?
- What should bosses do if staff have depression?
- How can you help someone overcome a fear of flying?
- What's the best airline in the world, and why?
- How do you feel when you see news of an air crash?
- What will flying be like in fifty years from now?
- What questions would you like to ask a pilot?

## Spelling

- putting in place qrmetirneuse
- new saeeursm
- The swift reenosps from airlines
- erbledyaielt crashed
- on a ilsoloinc course
- ymarotdna on all its flights
- revamping their screening deepursorc
- cinuseptoal in the media
- suffering from sedsipnoer
- News is also egrngmei
- There was "etsoulba silence"
- the co-pilot redtsee the plane

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Money

You think money is the best thing about being a pilot. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): prestige, travel or flying airplanes.

### Role B – Prestige

You think prestige is the best thing about being a pilot. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): money, travel or flying airplanes.

### Role C – Travel

You think travel is the best thing about being a pilot. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): prestige, money or flying airplanes.

### Role D – Flying airplanes

You think flying airplanes is the best thing about being a pilot. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): prestige, travel or money.

## Speaking – Pilots

Rank these with your partner. Put the best reasons for being a pilot at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| • money    | • excitement       |
| • uniform  | • meeting people   |
| • prestige | • serving people   |
| • travel   | • flying airplanes |

### Answers – True False

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