

Turbulence forces plane into emergency landing

4th July 2024



Severe turbulence forced an airplane into an emergency landing on Monday. Nearly 40 people were injured on the Air Europa Boeing 787 Dreamliner plane. It was flying from Spain to Uruguay. Turbulence hit the plane over the Atlantic, as it neared

South America. Air traffic controllers told the pilot to make an emergency landing in Natal, in north-eastern Brazil. Many of the injured were treated at a hospital in Natal. Other injured people completed their journey to Uruguay's capital city Montevideo by bus. Air Europa sent a new plane from Madrid on Monday. It flew passengers who chose not to take the bus to their final destination. The turbulence is the latest in a string of mid-air occurrences to injure many people.

Turbulence is the violent or unsteady movement of air. Modern aircraft are designed to survive strong winds and dangerous pockets of air. It is extremely rare for turbulence to damage an airplane. It is even rarer for it to cause a plane to crash. The biggest danger to passengers comes from not wearing a seat belt. Anyone standing up in the airplane, or not wearing a seat belt while seated, can be thrown around the cabin. They can suffer bad injuries by hitting their head on overhead lockers or on the plane's ceiling. Scientists from Reading University in the UK reported that severe turbulence is getting worse because of climate change. They said incidents increased by 55 per cent between 1979 and 2020.

Sources: abcnews / nypost / sky.com

Writing

Seat belts should be on all forms of transport. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

turbulence / emergency / landing / flying / pilot / hospital / journey / injuries / bus / violent / air / damage / passengers / cabin / overhead lockers / climate change

True / False

- 1) More than 40 people were injured on an airplane because of turbulence. T / F
- 2) The airplane was flying from Uruguay to Spain. T / F
- 3) Some passengers finished their journey by bus. T / F
- 4) More people have been injured recently because of turbulence. T / F
- 5) Modern planes are rarely damaged by severe turbulence. T / F
- 6) The biggest risk for passengers is wearing a seat belt. T / F
- 7) Scientists say climate change is worsening turbulence. T / F
- 8) Incidents from turbulence have increased by 80% since 2020. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. injured | a. made |
| 2. neared | b. trip |
| 3. treated | c. risk |
| 4. journey | d. approached |
| 5. latest | e. rose |
| 6. designed | f. hurt |
| 7. rare | g. occurrences |
| 8. danger | h. most recent |
| 9. incidents | i. looked after |
| 10. increased | j. uncommon |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of flying?
- b) How dangerous is it to fly?
- c) How can we make flying safer?
- d) Do you worry about travelling?
- e) What do air traffic controllers do?
- f) How would you help someone who is afraid of flying?
- g) What causes turbulence?
- h) What will flying be like in the future?

Phrase Match

1. Turbulence hit the plane
 2. Air traffic
 3. the injured were treated
 4. take the bus to
 5. the latest in a string of mid-
 6. Turbulence is the violent or unsteady
 7. strong winds and dangerous
 8. not wearing
 9. They can suffer bad injuries
 10. getting worse because
- a. pockets of air
 - b. their final destination
 - c. of climate change
 - d. movement of air
 - e. over the Atlantic
 - f. at a hospital
 - g. by hitting their head
 - h. air occurrences
 - i. a seat belt
 - j. controllers told the pilot

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Is flying the best way to travel?
- c) Should we wear seatbelts on airplanes, trains and buses?
- d) What are the good and bad things about flying?
- e) What do you think of your national airline?
- f) Would you like to be a pilot?
- g) How might climate change affect flying?
- h) What questions would you like to ask experts on turbulence?

Spelling

1. evesre turbulence
2. air iafctrf controllers
3. Many of the nurdei
4. It flew asspergnes
5. take the bus to their final onisattnied
6. a string of mid-air esornceuccr
7. the ineolty or unsteady movement
8. dangerous oepkctst of air
9. It is emtrxelye rare
10. They can suffer bad reuiisnj
11. the plane's ecgliin
12. tiednsncj increased by 55 per cent

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Airplane

You think airplane is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bicycle, car or train.

Role B – Bicycle

You think bicycle is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane, car or train.

Role C – Car

You think car is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bicycle, airplane or train.

Role D – Train

You think train is the best form of transport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bicycle, car or airplane.

Speaking – Transport

Rank these with your partner. Put the best forms of transport at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Bicycle
- E-scooter
- Ferry
- Subway
- Airplane
- Train
- Motorbike
- Bus

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.