

## Airlines create extra CO2 by 'fuel-tanking'

13th November, 2019



An employee who works for British Airways (BA) has told newspapers about the company creating more CO2. The unnamed person is a whistleblower - someone who tells the truth about company secrets. The whistleblower said BA and many other airlines

use "fuel-tanking" to save money. However, fuel-tanking is very bad for the environment. Scientists say it adds to global warming. Fuel-tanking is when airplanes store extra fuel to get to their destination and back. This means the airline saves money by paying for all the fuel in its home country instead of buying more expensive fuel at its destination. Scientists say fuel-tanking puts as much CO2 in the air each year as a large town.

A documentary about British Airways and fuel-tanking was shown on the BBC this week. In the documentary, the CEO of BA promised to look again at how it carries fuel. He said the airline uses the fuel-tanking method and said it was "maybe the wrong thing to do". The money saved by fuel-tanking for each flight is very small, but there is a big cost to the environment. A recent flight from London to Italy had three tons of extra fuel. The airline saved just \$50 on the flight but an extra 600kg of CO2 was put into the atmosphere. Greenpeace said this was a "classic example of a company putting profit before planet". It said: "They'll happily pour extra fuel on the fire for a small boost to their profit margin."

Sources: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

## Writing

People should only be able to take two flights a year. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

employee / newspapers / whistleblower / truth / environment / airline / fuel / money / documentary / the wrong thing to do / flight / atmosphere / example / profit / planet

## True / False

- a) A British Airways worker told a TV station about fuel-tanking. T / F
- b) A whistleblower is someone who tells secrets about a company. T / F
- c) Airlines use fuel-tanking to save money on fuel. T / F
- d) A large town puts twice as much CO2 into the air than fuel-tanking. T / F
- e) The CEO of British Airways said fuel-tanking was maybe wrong. T / F
- f) Fuel-tanking saves \$500 on a flight from London to Italy. T / F
- g) A flight from London to Italy puts 60kg of CO2 into the air. T / F
- h) Greenpeace said airlines care more about profit than the planet. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>employee</b>    | a. vowed         |
| 2. <b>unnamed</b>     | b. keep          |
| 3. <b>adds to</b>     | c. additional    |
| 4. <b>store</b>       | d. anonymous     |
| 5. <b>destination</b> | e. splash        |
| 6. <b>promised</b>    | f. practice      |
| 7. <b>method</b>      | g. worker        |
| 8. <b>extra</b>       | h. increases     |
| 9. <b>pour</b>        | i. raise         |
| 10. <b>boost</b>      | j. journey's end |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about British Airways?
- b) What damage is CO2 doing to the earth?
- c) What do you think of 'fuel-tanking'?
- d) How bad is air travel for the environment?
- e) What do you think of flying?
- f) Should people only be allowed to fly twice a year?
- g) How much CO2 does your lifestyle create?
- h) How can flying be better for the environment?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The unnamed                      | a. destination and back      |
| 2. fuel-tankering is very bad       | b. year as a large town      |
| 3. store extra fuel to get to their | c. into the atmosphere       |
| 4. buying more expensive fuel       | d. on the fire               |
| 5. puts as much CO2 in the air each | e. fuel                      |
| 6. there is a big cost              | f. margin                    |
| 7. three tons of extra              | g. at its destination        |
| 8. an extra 600kg of CO2 was put    | h. to the environment        |
| 9. pour extra fuel                  | i. for the environment       |
| 10. a small boost to their profit   | j. person is a whistleblower |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of whistleblowers?
- What do you think of your country's airline?
- What should airlines do about fuel-tankering?
- What will flying be like in 50 years from now?
- What advice do you have for British Airways?
- Do companies care more about profits than nature?
- What questions would you like to ask the British Airways boss?

## Spelling

- An oleeyepm who works for British Airways
- aeirngct more CO2
- The umaennnd person is a whistleblower
- bad for the ntonnrmevei
- get to their niistndaeo and back
- buying more nxvspeeie fuel
- A yemrdcutnoa about British Airways
- the fuel-tankering omedht
- saved just \$50 on the lhgift
- CO2 was put into the perhtoaems
- a siaclsc example
- a small boost to their profit nragmi

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Getting There

You think getting there is the best thing about flying. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane food, in-flight entertainment or the airport.

### Role B – Airplane Food

You think airplane food is the best thing about flying. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): getting there, in-flight entertainment or the airport.

### Role C – In-flight Entertainment

You think in-flight entertainment is the best thing about flying. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane food, getting there or the airport.

### Role D – The Airport

You think the airport is the best thing about flying. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane food, in-flight entertainment or getting there.

## Speaking – Flying

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about flying at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| • Airplanes   | • Getting there           |
| • The service | • Airplane food           |
| • Duty free   | • In-flight entertainment |
| • Airports    | • The departure lounge    |

### Answers – True False

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