

www.Breaking News English.com

Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

"1,000 IDEAS & ACTIVITIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS"
The Breaking News English.com Resource Book
<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Polish President killed in plane crash

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

Poland's President Lech Kaczynski died this morning in a plane crash in Russia. He was on his way to the town of Smolensk to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. This was the killing of 22,000 Polish officers by Soviet security forces near Smolensk during WWII. Dozens of other high-profile Polish officials also died in the air disaster, which no one survived. Among the 96 who lost their lives were Poland's army chief, the governor of Poland's central bank, politicians, bishops and leading historians. Details are emerging of the cause of the crash. Safety officials believe it might have been due to human error. The plane hit trees in thick fog as it approached the airport's runway.

The crash has caused great anguish in Poland. One comment on Twitter by a Polish woman said it was the biggest disaster for Poland in the past 50 years. Another tweeter said Poland is now facing its worst political crisis since it escaped from communism in 1989. Two dozen of the country's top politicians were on board the plane. The BBC's Adam Easton, reporting from Warsaw, said the crash was a catastrophe for the Polish people. He reported that Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk was in tears at the news of the tragedy. British leader Gordon Brown said the whole world was "saddened". The country must now announce a presidential election in the next two weeks. The poll will take place within two months of the announcement.

WARM-UPS

1. PLANE CRASHES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about plane crashes. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

presidents / plane crashes / anniversaries / massacres / air disaster / human error / anguish / disaster / political crisis / catastrophe / in tears / saddened / elections

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. AIR TRAVEL: What worries you about air travel? Complete this table with your partner. Change partners and share what you heard.

	How much it worries you	What you do about it
turbulence		
taking off /landing		
airplane noises		
the idea of bombs		
other passengers		
crashing		

4. AIR SAFETY: Students A **strongly** believe air travel will be totally safe one day; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. LOSS: Rank these according to who is the biggest loss to a country. Share your rankings with your partner. Change partners and share your rankings.

- the President
- the top sports star
- the best doctor
- the most popular singer
- the leading business man/woman
- the most successful teacher
- the top movie star
- the average Jo(e)

6. PRESIDENT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'president'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Poland's President died as his plane approached Moscow airport. | T / F |
| b. There were few survivors in the tragedy. | T / F |
| c. Aviation officials believe the plane crashed due to mechanical failure. | T / F |
| d. Weather conditions were perfect as the plane landed. | T / F |
| e. A Pole said the crash was her country's biggest tragedy in 5 decades. | T / F |
| f. There were at least 24 Polish politicians on board the airplane. | T / F |
| g. The Polish Prime Minister cried at the news of the air disaster. | T / F |
| h. An election for a new president must take place within 10 weeks. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. commemorate | a. well-known |
| 2. massacre | b. crying |
| 3. high-profile | c. because of |
| 4. emerging | d. experiencing |
| 5. due to | e. remember |
| 6. anguish | f. disaster |
| 7. facing | g. appearing |
| 8. catastrophe | h. inside |
| 9. in tears | i. slaughter |
| 10. within | j. distress |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. commemorate the 70th anniversary | a. for the Polish people |
| 2. Polish officials also died | b. who lost their lives |
| 3. the 96 | c. were on board |
| 4. it might have been due | d. the airport's runway |
| 5. thick fog as it approached | e. worst political crisis |
| 6. The crash has caused great | f. to human error |
| 7. Poland is now facing its | g. of the Katyn massacre |
| 8. Two dozen of the country's top politicians | h. within two months |
| 9. the crash was a catastrophe | i. in the air disaster |
| 10. The poll will take place | j. anguish in Poland |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Poland's President Lech Kaczynski died this morning in a plane crash in Russia. He was on his _____ to the town of Smolensk to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn _____. This was the killing of 22,000 Polish officers by Soviet security forces near Smolensk during WWII. Dozens of other high-_____ Polish officials also died in the air _____, which no one survived. Among the 96 who lost their lives were Poland's army chief, the governor of Poland's _____ bank, politicians, bishops and leading historians. Details are emerging of the _____ of the crash. Safety _____ believe it might have been due to human error. The plane hit trees in thick fog as it approached the airport's _____.

disaster
massacre
runway
cause
way
officials
profile
central

The crash has caused great _____ in Poland. One comment on Twitter by a Polish woman said it was the biggest _____ for Poland in the past 50 years. Another tweeter said Poland is now _____ its worst political _____ since it escaped from communism in 1989. Two dozen of the country's top politicians were on _____ the plane. The BBC's Adam Easton, reporting from Warsaw, said the crash was a catastrophe for the Polish people. He reported that Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk was in _____ at the news of the tragedy. British leader Gordon Brown said the whole world was "_____". The country must now announce a presidential election in the next two weeks. The poll will take place _____ two months of the announcement.

facing
within
saddened
anguish
board
disaster
tears
crisis

Polish President killed in plane crash – 11th April, 2010

More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com - Copyright Sean Banville 2010

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

Poland's President Lech Kaczynski died this morning in a plane crash in Russia. He _____ the town of Smolensk to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. This _____ Polish officers by Soviet security forces near Smolensk during WWII. Dozens _____ Polish officials also died in the air disaster, which no one survived. Among the _____ were Poland's army chief, the governor of Poland's central bank, politicians, bishops and leading historians. Details are emerging _____. Safety officials believe it might have been due to human error. The plane hit trees in thick fog _____ airport's runway.

The crash _____ in Poland. One comment on Twitter by a Polish woman said it was the biggest disaster for Poland in the past 50 years. Another tweeter said Poland _____ political crisis _____ communism in 1989. Two dozen of the country's top politicians were _____. The BBC's Adam Easton, reporting from Warsaw, said the crash was a catastrophe for the Polish people. He reported that Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk was in tears at the _____. British leader Gordon Brown said the whole world was "saddened". The country must now announce a presidential election in the next two weeks. The _____ within two months of the announcement.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'plane' and 'crash'.

plane	crash

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• way• security• disaster• dozens• central• thick	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• great• facing• crisis• people• tears• within
--	---

STUDENT PLANE CRASHES SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

Write five GOOD questions about plane crashes in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the words 'plane crash'?
- c) Do you worry about plane crashes when you fly?
- d) Do you wonder how a president's airplane can crash?
- e) What effect will so many deaths of leading figures have on Poland?
- f) Do you think the Katyn massacre commemoration will change now?
- g) Do you think air travel will ever be without risk?
- h) What kind of memorial is fitting for the air crash?
- i) Do you think the leading figures in this plane should have all traveled on the same aircraft?
- j) What three adjectives would you use to describe this news?

Polish President killed in plane crash – 11th April, 2010
More free lessons at www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com

DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What have you read or seen about this news?
- c) Would you like to read the Twitter comments about it?
- d) How much of a crisis do you think the president's death will leave?
- e) What event has caused the biggest anguish in your country?
- f) How will this plane crash change Poland?
- g) How can the world best remember those who died in the plane crash?
- h) What do you know about Lech Kaczynski?
- i) What message would you give to the Polish people (your own if you are Polish)?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

Poland's President Lech Kaczynski died this morning in a plane crash in Russia. He was (1) _____ his way to the town of Smolensk to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. This was the (2) _____ of 22,000 Polish officers by Soviet security forces near Smolensk during WWII. Dozens of (3) _____ high-profile Polish officials also died in the air disaster, which no one survived. Among the 96 who lost their (4) _____ were Poland's army chief, the governor of Poland's central bank, politicians, bishops and (5) _____ historians. Details are emerging of the cause of the crash. Safety officials believe it might have been due to human error. The plane hit trees in (6) _____ fog as it approached the airport's runway.

The crash has (7) _____ great anguish in Poland. One comment on Twitter by a Polish woman said it was the biggest disaster for Poland in the past 50 years. Another tweeter said Poland is now (8) _____ its worst political crisis since it escaped from communism in 1989. Two dozen of the country's top politicians were (9) _____ board the plane. The BBC's Adam Easton, reporting from Warsaw, said the crash was a catastrophe for the Polish people. He reported that Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk was (10) _____ tears at the news of the tragedy. British leader Gordon Brown said the whole world was "saddened". The country must now announce a presidential election in the next two weeks. The (11) _____ will take place (12) _____ two months of the announcement.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. (a) in | (b) at | (c) to | (d) on |
| 2. (a) killed | (b) killing | (c) killer | (d) kills |
| 3. (a) other | (b) others | (c) another | (d) the other |
| 4. (a) alive | (b) living | (c) lives | (d) lived |
| 5. (a) lead | (b) leaded | (c) leading | (d) leaders |
| 6. (a) thin | (b) thick | (c) wet | (d) dry |
| 7. (a) caused | (b) raised | (c) done | (d) taken |
| 8. (a) mouthing | (b) nosing | (c) heading | (d) facing |
| 9. (a) at | (b) on | (c) in | (d) to |
| 10. (a) on | (b) of | (c) at | (d) in |
| 11. (a) toll | (b) roll | (c) poll | (d) doll |
| 12. (a) within | (b) without | (c) outside | (d) in |

WRITING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1004/100411-plane_crash.html

Write about **plane crashes** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

[illegible]

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this plane crashes. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PLANE CRASHES: Make a poster about plane crashes. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. LOSS: Write a magazine article about what happens when many leaders of a country die. Include imaginary interviews with a leader who survives and a member of the public.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of an air safety company. Ask him/her three questions about plane crashes. Give him/her three ideas to make flying safer. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. F c. F d. F e. T f. T g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. commemorate | a. remember |
| 2. massacre | b. slaughter |
| 3. high-profile | c. well-known |
| 4. emerging | d. appearing |
| 5. due to | e. because of |
| 6. anguish | f. distress |
| 7. facing | g. experiencing |
| 8. catastrophe | h. disaster |
| 9. in tears | i. crying |
| 10. within | j. inside |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. commemorate the 70th anniversary | a. of the Katyn massacre |
| 2. Polish officials also died | b. in the air disaster |
| 3. the 96 | c. who lost their lives |
| 4. it might have been due | d. to human error |
| 5. thick fog as it approached | e. the airport's runway |
| 6. The crash has caused great | f. anguish in Poland |
| 7. Poland is now facing its | g. worst political crisis |
| 8. Two dozen of the country's top politicians | h. were on board |
| 9. the crash was a catastrophe | i. for the Polish people |
| 10. The poll will take place | j. within two months |

GAP FILL:

Polish President killed in plane crash

Poland's President Lech Kaczynski died this morning in a plane crash in Russia. He was on his **way** to the town of Smolensk to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn **massacre**. This was the killing of 22,000 Polish officers by Soviet security forces near Smolensk during WWII. Dozens of other high-**profile** Polish officials also died in the air **disaster**, which no one survived. Among the 96 who lost their lives were Poland's army chief, the governor of Poland's **central** bank, politicians, bishops and leading historians. Details are emerging of the **cause** of the crash. Safety **officials** believe it might have been due to human error. The plane hit trees in thick fog as it approached the airport's **runway**.

The crash has caused great **anguish** in Poland. One comment on Twitter by a Polish woman said it was the biggest **disaster** for Poland in the past 50 years. Another tweeter said Poland is now **facing** its worst political **crisis** since it escaped from communism in 1989. Two dozen of the country's top politicians were on **board** the plane. The BBC's Adam Easton, reporting from Warsaw, said the crash was a catastrophe for the Polish people. He reported that Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk was in **tears** at the news of the tragedy. British leader Gordon Brown said the whole world was "**saddened**". The country must now announce a presidential election in the next two weeks. The poll will take place **within** two months of the announcement.

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a