

## Laptop ban goes into effect in certain countries

29th March, 2017



A number of airports in the Middle East have started implementing the ban on taking laptop computers into the airplane cabin on flights to the USA and the UK. A new directive from the USA and UK now requires electronic devices

larger than a smartphone to be checked in to be stored in the hold of the aircraft. The US ban has affected airlines from eight Middle Eastern countries, while similar UK restrictions apply to six countries. Officials said the reason for the ban was that larger digital devices could contain explosives. They did not give any indication as to how long the ban would be in place. However, the Dubai-based Emirates airlines said it had received instructions to enforce it until at least October 14.

There has been mixed reaction to the ban. Airlines were unhappy about being given just 96 hours to comply with it or risk losing their license to fly into the USA. Some called it an operational nightmare. They are unsure whether or not to pass the financial burden of the additional layer of security checks onto passengers. Some of the affected countries are questioning why the ban affects only Muslim-majority countries. Passengers, meanwhile, seem resigned to it. Rakan Mohammed from Qatar said: "It's a rule. I follow the rules. The bigger problem for my family is the no smoking." Maryam Hassad from Dubai was more concerned about how to keep her children occupied on a long flight without their laptops.

Sources: [dw.com](http://dw.com) / [businessinsider.com](http://businessinsider.com) / [buzzfeed.com](http://buzzfeed.com)

## Writing

The laptop ban should be on all flights worldwide. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airports / ban / cabin / flights / electronic devices / Middle Eastern / explosives / mixed reaction / license / nightmare / financial burden / security checks / rules

## True / False

- Airports in the Middle and Far East have implemented a laptop ban. T / F
- Laptops can be stored in the hold of the aircraft. T / F
- The UK's ban affects more countries than the USA's ban. T / F
- A Dubai-based airline said the ban will end on October 14. T / F
- Airlines were given 96 hours to comply with the ban. T / F
- Some airlines said their passengers had nightmares. T / F
- One passenger was more concerned about not being allowed to smoke. T / F
- A passenger was more worried about what her children would do. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>a number of</b>  | a. stowed       |
| 2. <b>implementing</b> | b. limitations  |
| 3. <b>restrictions</b> | c. several      |
| 4. <b>stored</b>       | d. chance       |
| 5. <b>indication</b>   | e. ordeal       |
| 6. <b>reaction</b>     | f. busy         |
| 7. <b>risk</b>         | g. sign         |
| 8. <b>nightmare</b>    | h. querying     |
| 9. <b>questioning</b>  | i. carrying out |
| 10. <b>occupied</b>    | j. response     |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why has there been mixed reaction to the ban?
- What kind of operational nightmare do you think airlines had?
- Who should pay for the additional layer of security?
- Do people really need laptops on airplanes?
- What would you do on a 12-hour flight?
- How can you keep children occupied on a long flight?
- What questions would you like to ask an airline boss?

## Phrase Match

- |                                          |                              |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. started implementing                  | a. hold of the aircraft      |
| 2. A new directive                       | b. would be in place         |
| 3. stored in the                         | c. her children occupied     |
| 4. any indication as to how long the ban | d. reaction to the ban       |
| 5. instructions to enforce it            | e. the ban                   |
| 6. There has been mixed                  | f. to comply with it         |
| 7. given just 96 hours                   | g. from the USA and UK       |
| 8. financial                             | h. resigned to it            |
| 9. Passengers, meanwhile, seem           | i. until at least October 14 |
| 10. more concerned about how to keep     | j. burden                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the laptop ban?
- How good is airport security?
- Why is the ban on flights from so few countries?
- Is the laptop any less of a security risk in the hold?
- Should smartphones also be banned?
- Won't terrorists simply put explosives in other things instead?
- How long do you think the ban should last?
- How worried are you about security when flying?

## Spelling

- started mitpmignlnee the ban
- The US ban has fafecetd airlines
- UK rtsnriictose apply to six countries
- digital devices could contain sesvelpxoi
- They did not give any ticainoind
- received instructions to onfeecr it
- There has been mixed iorntcae
- an operational hinemargt
- the financial rbedun
- the ban affects only Muslim-yamotjir countries
- Passengers, meanwhile, seem eingrsde to it
- keep her children diopuecc on a long flight

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Watch Movies

You think the best thing to do on a 12-hour flight is to watch movies. 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): work / study, talk to other passengers or exercise.

### Role B – Work / Study

You think the best thing to do on a 12-hour flight is to work / study. 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): watch movies, talk to other passengers or exercise.

### Role C – Talk to Other Passengers

You think the best thing to do on a 12-hour flight is to talk to other passengers. 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): work / study, watch movies or exercise.

### Role D – Exercise

You think the best thing to do on a 12-hour flight is to exercise. 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): work / study, talk to other passengers or watch movies.

## Speaking – 12-hour flight

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to do on a 12-hour flight at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Talk to other passengers | • Watch movies  |
| • Exercise                 | • Read novels   |
| • Sleep                    | • Write letters |
| • Listen to music          | • Work / study  |

### Answers – True False

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