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## **Level 5**

### **Airline boss promises pilots bonus to keep flying**

**9th October, 2017**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots-5.html>

Europe's biggest low-cost airline has promised better pay and working conditions for pilots. It wants to stop them leaving the company. The CEO of Ryanair wrote to the budget airline's 4,200 pilots to address their concerns. He offered pilots salary increases of up to \$11,700 and loyalty bonuses. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, too late". He said: "There is a lack of basic benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no crew meals." Pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the toxic atmosphere."

The CEO is trying to repair the damage done to Ryanair's image after a scheduling error with pilot holidays. This mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled because of a lack of available pilots. This has affected 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline disrespected the "skill set" of pilots. He said Ryanair was "being forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands". The CEO is confident that pilots will stay with Ryanair, "for a brighter, better future". He added: "We are a very secure employer in a very insecure industry."

Sources: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-06/ryanair-operating-chief-resigns-amid-fallout-from-cancellations>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-41384789>  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/ryanair-michael-oleary-boss-pilot-shortages-bonus-offer-letter-flight-cancellations-airline-a7985906.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Europe's biggest low-    | a. had enough        |
| 2. address their            | b. late              |
| 3. salary increases         | c. atmosphere        |
| 4. too little, too          | d. concerns          |
| 5. There is a lack of basic | e. of up to \$11,700 |
| 6. Pilots also had to buy   | f. benefits          |
| 7. People have just         | g. cost airline      |
| 8. toxic                    | h. their own uniform |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. trying to repair the        | a. have been cancelled |
| 2. a scheduling                | b. pilots will stay    |
| 3. more than 20,000 flights    | c. passengers          |
| 4. because of a lack           | d. backpedal           |
| 5. This has affected 700,000   | e. error               |
| 6. Ryanair was being forced to | f. of available pilots |
| 7. The CEO is confident that   | g. employer            |
| 8. a very secure               | h. damage              |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots-5.html>

Europe's biggest (1) \_\_\_\_\_ has promised better pay and working conditions for pilots. It wants to stop them leaving the company. The CEO of Ryanair wrote to (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 4,200 pilots to address their concerns. He offered pilots salary increases of up to \$11,700 (3) \_\_\_\_\_. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, too late". He said: "There is a lack (4) \_\_\_\_\_ [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or (5) \_\_\_\_\_ meals." Pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_."

The CEO is trying to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ done to Ryanair's image after (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with pilot holidays. This mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled because of a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ pilots. This has affected 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline disrespected (10) \_\_\_\_\_ pilots. He said Ryanair was "being forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands". The CEO (11) \_\_\_\_\_ pilots will stay with Ryanair, "for a brighter, better future". He added: "We are a very (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a very insecure industry."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots-5.html>

Europe's biggest low-cost airline has promised better pay and working conditions for pilots. It wants to stop them leaving the company. The CEO of Ryanair wrote to the budget airline's 4,200 pilots to address their concerns. He offered pilot salary increases of up to \$11,700 and loyalty bonuses. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, too late". He said: "There is a lack of basic benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no crew meals." Pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the toxic atmosphere." The CEO is trying to repair the damage done to Ryanair's image after a scheduling error with pilot holidays. This mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled because of a lack of available pilots. This has affected 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline disrespected the "skill set" of pilots. He said Ryanair was "being forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands". The CEO is confident that pilots will stay with Ryanair, "for a brighter, better future". He added: "We are a very secure employer in a very insecure industry."

# PILOTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pilots 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

