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## **Level 6**

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

**9th October, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

## **Contents**

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
Gap Fill	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash ( / ) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline has promised to increase the pay and working conditions of pilots to stop them leaving the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a personal pledge to the budget carrier's 4,200 pilots to address concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to quit the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11,700 and loyalty bonuses of \$14,000. 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." He said pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the toxic atmosphere."

Mr O'Leary is attempting to repair the damage done to Ryanair's reputation after a scheduling error with pilot holidays. The costly mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a lack of available pilots. This has affected over 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline made this costly error, "by initially disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a rare move, [Ryanair] is being forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands." O'Leary is confident that pilots will stay. He said: "I urge you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better future for you and your family." 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. PILOTS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about pilots. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

boss / promised / pay / working conditions / airline / loyalty / bonus / atmosphere / repair / damage / mistake / flights / pilots / analyst / confident / brighter / future

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

**3. FLYING:** Students A **strongly** believe flying is the best way to travel; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. WORKING CONDITIONS:** What should the minimum working conditions be for everyone? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Minimum conditions	Why?
Salary		
Hours		
Overtime		
Benefits		
Environment		
Holidays		

**5. SALARY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "salary". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. AIRPLANES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about airplanes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- pilots
- cabin crew
- airplane food
- taking off
- in-flight entertainment
- checking in / boarding
- the whole experience
- landing

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

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

- a. The airline in the article is Europe's biggest low-cost carrier. **T / F**
- b. The airline employs almost 42,000 pilots. **T / F**
- c. The airline offered a salary increase of up to \$14,000. **T / F**
- d. The airline provides pilots with uniforms free of charge. **T / F**
- e. The airline made a mistake with its pilots' holiday schedule. **T / F**
- f. Over 700,000 passengers have been affected by flight cancellations. **T / F**
- g. The article said pedals on airplanes weren't put back. **T / F**
- h. The airline is fairly sure that its pilots will not quit. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. <b>boss</b>       | a. fundamental        |
| 2. <b>pledge</b>     | b. trying             |
| 3. <b>basic</b>      | c. poisonous          |
| 4. <b>buy</b>        | d. at first           |
| 5. <b>toxic</b>      | e. (do an) about-face |
| 6. <b>attempting</b> | f. purchase           |
| 7. <b>costly</b>     | g. chief              |
| 8. <b>initially</b>  | h. trade              |
| 9. <b>backpedal</b>  | i. promise            |
| 10. <b>industry</b>  | j. expensive          |

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

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. working                              | a. to Ryanair's reputation |
| 2. address concerns that pilots         | b. benefits                |
| 3. loyalty                              | c. backpedal               |
| 4. There is a lack of basic             | d. are dissatisfied        |
| 5. People have just had enough of       | e. analyst                 |
| 6. attempting to repair the damage done | f. bonuses                 |
| 7. more than 20,000 flights have been   | g. conditions              |
| 8. industry                             | h. employer                |
| 9. Ryanair is being forced to           | i. the toxic atmosphere    |
| 10. We are a very secure                | j. cancelled               |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to increase the pay and working conditions of pilots to stop them leaving the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a personal (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to the budget carrier's 4,200 pilots to address concerns that pilots are (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and want to quit the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11,700 and loyalty (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of \$14,000. A long- (5) \_\_\_\_\_ pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, too late." He said: "There is a lack of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no crew meals." He said pilots also had to buy their own (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He added: "People have just had enough of the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere."

*bonuses*

*pledge*

*uniform*

*promised*

*toxic*

*servicing*

*dissatisfied*

*basic*

Mr O'Leary is attempting to repair the damage done to Ryanair's (9) \_\_\_\_\_ after a scheduling error with pilot holidays. The costly mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of available pilots. This has affected over 700,000 passengers. An industry (11) \_\_\_\_\_ said the airline made this costly error, "by (12) \_\_\_\_\_ disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a rare move, [Ryanair] is being forced to (13) \_\_\_\_\_, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands." O'Leary is (14) \_\_\_\_\_ that pilots will stay. He said: "I (15) \_\_\_\_\_ you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better future for you and your family." He added: "We are a very secure (16) \_\_\_\_\_ in a very insecure industry."

*initially*

*reputation*

*urge*

*backpedal*

*employer*

*analyst*

*lack*

*confident*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

- 1) promised to increase the pay and working \_\_\_\_\_ pilots
  - a. conditions off
  - b. condition of
  - c. conditioned of
  - d. conditions of
- 2) Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a personal pledge to the budget \_\_\_\_\_ pilots
  - a. carrier's 4,200
  - b. carries are 4,200
  - c. carry as 4,200
  - d. carry was 4,200
- 3) address concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want \_\_\_\_\_ company
  - a. to quiet the
  - b. to quite the
  - c. to quit the
  - d. to quilt the
- 4) A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. little, two late
  - b. little, to late
  - c. little, tool late
  - d. little, too late
- 5) a lack of basic benefits for pilots - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea \_\_\_\_\_ meals
  - a. and no clue
  - b. and no crew
  - c. and no cue
  - d. and no queue
- 6) Mr O'Leary is attempting to repair the damage done to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Ryanair's reputation
  - b. Ryanair's repetition
  - c. Ryanair's respiration
  - d. Ryanair's reparation
- 7) 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a lack of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. avail a ball pilots
  - b. avail able pilots
  - c. avail a bull pilots
  - d. available pilots
- 8) An industry analyst said the airline made this \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. ghostly error
  - b. coast lie error
  - c. gross tea error
  - d. costly error
- 9) He added: "In a rare move, Ryanair is being \_\_\_\_\_"
  - a. forced to backs pedal
  - b. forced to backpedal
  - c. forced to back pedals
  - d. forced to backed pedal
- 10) He added: "We are a very secure employer in a very \_\_\_\_\_."
  - a. in secure industry
  - b. non-secure industry
  - c. inns a cure industry
  - d. insecure industry

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline (1) \_\_\_\_\_ increase the pay and working conditions of pilots to stop them leaving the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to the budget carrier's 4,200 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to quit the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11,700 (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of \$14,000. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, too late." He said: "There is a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no crew meals." He said pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough (6) \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere."

Mr O'Leary (7) \_\_\_\_\_ repair the damage done to Ryanair's reputation after (8) \_\_\_\_\_ with pilot holidays. The costly mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ pilots. This has affected over 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline made (10) \_\_\_\_\_, "by initially disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a rare move, [Ryanair] is being (11) \_\_\_\_\_, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands." O'Leary is confident that pilots will stay. He said: "I urge you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better future for you and your family." He added: "We are (12) \_\_\_\_\_ employer in a very insecure industry."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

1. What kind of airline is Ryanair?
2. How many pilots does Ryanair have?
3. How much are the loyalty bonuses that Ryanair is offering?
4. Who buys the uniforms for the pilots?
5. How did a pilot describe the atmosphere as Ryanair as being?
6. What part of Ryanair was damaged because of a scheduling error?
7. How many passengers were affected by cancelled flights?
8. What did an industry analyst say Ryanair had to meet?
9. What kind of future did the CEO suggest could be had by not quitting?
10. How did the CEO describe the airline industry as being?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

- 1) What kind of airline is Ryanair?
  - a) a budget airline
  - b) a business-class-only carrier
  - c) a premium carrier
  - d) a luxury airline
- 2) How many pilots does Ryanair have?
  - a) 4,020
  - b) 2,400
  - c) 4,200
  - d) 2,040
- 3) How much are the loyalty bonuses that Ryanair is offering?
  - a) \$11,700
  - b) \$14,700
  - c) \$17,400
  - d) \$14,000
- 4) Who buys the uniforms for the pilots?
  - a) Ryanair
  - b) the pilots
  - c) the CEO
  - d) the cabin crew
- 5) How did a pilot describe the atmosphere as Ryanair as being?
  - a) toxic
  - b) refined
  - c) exciting
  - d) calm
- 6) What part of Ryanair was damaged because of a scheduling error?
  - a) its head office
  - b) its check-in counters
  - c) its IT systems
  - d) its image
- 7) How many passengers were affected by cancelled flights?
  - a) about 700,000
  - b) fewer than 700,000
  - c) more than 700,000
  - d) exactly 700,000
- 8) What did an industry analyst say Ryanair had to meet?
  - a) passenger groups
  - b) pilots' pay demands
  - c) aviation standards
  - d) unions
- 9) What kind of future did the CEO suggest could be had by not quitting?
  - a) a brighter and bitter one
  - b) a blighted and bitter one
  - c) a brighter and better one
  - d) a bittier and brighter one
- 10) How did the CEO describe the airline industry as being?
  - a) harsh
  - b) insecure
  - c) competitive
  - d) fun

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

## **Role A – 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): in-flight entertainment, the cabin crew or landing.

## **Role B – 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, the cabin crew or landing.

## **Role C – The Cabin Crew**

You think the cabin crew 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): in-flight entertainment, airplane food or landing.

## **Role D – Landing**

You think landing 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): in-flight entertainment, the cabin crew or airplane food.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

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

airline	pilot

- 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"><li>• low</li><li>• personal</li><li>• quit</li><li>• loyalty</li><li>• late</li><li>• toxic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• repair</li><li>• costly</li><li>• recently</li><li>• initially</li><li>• urge</li><li>• secure</li></ul>
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# PILOTS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.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.

# PILOTS DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'pilot'?
3. What do you think of low-cost airlines?
4. What do you think of pilots?
5. Should pilots of budget carriers be well paid?
6. What is your favourite airline?
7. What do you think are the difficulties of being a pilot?
8. What do you think of pilots having to buy their own uniform?
9. What advice do you have for Ryanair?
10. Have you ever worked in a toxic atmosphere?

*Airline boss promises pilots bonus to keep flying – 9th October, 2017*  
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# PILOTS DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'airline'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How safe are budget carriers?
15. What do you think of flying?
16. Would you like to be a pilot?
17. How would you feel if your flight was canceled?
18. Have you ever backpedaled on a decision you made?
19. Why do you think the airline industry is insecure?
20. What questions would you like to ask Ryanair's CEO?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline has (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to increase the pay and working conditions of pilots to stop them (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a personal (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the budget carrier's 4,200 pilots to address concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to quit the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11,700 and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ bonuses of \$14,000. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ late." He said: "There is a lack of basic benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no crew meals." He said pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere."

Mr O'Leary is attempting to repair the damage done to Ryanair's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ after a scheduling error with pilot holidays. The (8) \_\_\_\_\_ mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a lack of available pilots. This has (9) \_\_\_\_\_ over 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline made this costly error, "by (10) \_\_\_\_\_ disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a rare move, [Ryanair] is being forced to (11) \_\_\_\_\_, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands." O'Leary is confident that pilots will stay. He said: "I urge you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better future for you and your family." He added: "We are a very secure employer (12) \_\_\_\_\_ a very insecure industry."

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

- |     |                |                |                 |                  |
|-----|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1.  | (a) promise    | (b) promised   | (c) promissory  | (d) promising    |
| 2.  | (a) leaves     | (b) leaving    | (c) left        | (d) leaver       |
| 3.  | (a) merge      | (b) sledge     | (c) drudge      | (d) pledge       |
| 4.  | (a) loyal      | (b) loyalty    | (c) royal       | (d) royally      |
| 5.  | (a) by         | (b) to         | (c) so          | (d) too          |
| 6.  | (a) toxicity   | (b) toxins     | (c) toxic       | (d) toxicology   |
| 7.  | (a) reputation | (b) reparation | (c) restoration | (d) repatriation |
| 8.  | (a) costed     | (b) costing    | (c) costly      | (d) costs        |
| 9.  | (a) deflected  | (b) reflected  | (c) infected    | (d) affected     |
| 10. | (a) initially  | (b) initialize | (c) initials    | (d) initialing   |
| 11. | (a) backpedal  | (b) peddle     | (c) pedal       | (d) pedals       |
| 12. | (a) in         | (b) by         | (c) at          | (d) on           |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. made a personal lgepde
2. the budget rraierc
3. pilots are eiisdtdafss
4. olytaly bonuses of \$14,000
5. pilots also had to buy their own omunifr
6. toxic pseraotmhe

## Paragraph 2

7. the damage done to Ryanair's optruetnai
8. a liudegcshn error with pilot holidays
9. a lack of eabaillav pilots
10. An industry ansylat
11. Ryanair is being forced to lacobkped
12. in a very cnsruiee industry

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) this costly error, "by initially disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a rare move, [Ryanair] is being
- ( ) bonuses of \$14,000. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, too late." He said: "There is a lack of basic
- ( ) Mr O'Leary is attempting to repair the damage done to Ryanair's reputation after a scheduling
- ( ) benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no crew meals." He said pilots also had to buy their
- ( ) lack of available pilots. This has affected over 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline made
- ( ) pilots to stop them leaving the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a personal
- ( ) confident that pilots will stay. He said: "I urge you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better
- ( ) forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands." O'Leary is
- ( ) own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the toxic atmosphere."
- ( ) future for you and your family." He added: "We are a very secure employer in a very insecure industry."
- ( **1** ) The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline has promised to increase the pay and working conditions of
- ( ) error with pilot holidays. The costly mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a
- ( ) the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11,700 and loyalty
- ( ) pledge to the budget carrier's 4,200 pilots to address concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to quit

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

1. low-cost Europe's has The of airline promised boss biggest .
2. the to pledge personal a Made pilots 4,200 carrier's budget .
3. up salary have , to increases been \$11,700 of offered Pilots .
4. own said had their He also buy uniform pilots to .
5. People of have the just toxic had atmosphere enough .
6. Repair damage to reputation the done Ryanair's .
7. , The meant flights mistake than 20,000 costly more .
8. this An said made error analyst airline costly industry the .
9. future I urge you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter .
10. very secure employer in a very insecure industry We are a .

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline has *promising / promised* to increase the *pay / paid* and working conditions of pilots to stop them leaving the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a *personally / personal* pledge to the *budget / budgeted* carrier's 4,200 pilots to *mail / address* concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to *quiet / quit* the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases *of / for* up to \$11,700 and loyalty bonuses of \$14,000. A long-serving pilot told the BBC this was, "too little, *too / to* late." He said: "There is a lack of basic benefits [for pilots] - no free bottles of water, coffee or tea and no *clue / crew* meals." He said pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the *toxic / toxicity* atmosphere."

Mr O'Leary is *attempting / attempted* to repair the damage done to Ryanair's reputation after a scheduling *terror / error* with pilot holidays. The *cost / costly* mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have *being / been* cancelled recently because of a lack of available pilots. This has affected over 700,000 passengers. An industry *analysis / analyst* said the airline made this costly error, "by *initially / initial* disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a *rare / rarely* move, [Ryanair] is being forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay *supplies / demands*." O'Leary is confident that pilots will stay. He said: "I *urge / purge* you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better future for you and your family." He added: "We are a very secure employer *in / on* a very insecure industry."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

Th\_ b\_ss \_f \_\_r\_p\_'s b\_gg\_st l\_w-c\_st \_\_rl\_n\_ h\_s  
pr\_m\_s\_d t\_ \_ncr\_\_s\_ th\_ p\_y \_nd w\_rk\_ng c\_nd\_t\_\_ns  
\_f p\_l\_ts t\_ st\_p th\_m l\_\_v\_ng th\_ c\_mp\_ny. M\_ch\_\_l  
\_'L\_\_ry, C\_\_ \_f Ry\_n\_\_r, m\_d\_ \_ p\_rs\_n\_l pl\_dg\_ t\_  
th\_ b\_dg\_t c\_rr\_\_r's 4,200 p\_l\_ts t\_ \_ddr\_ss c\_nc\_rns  
th\_t p\_l\_ts \_r\_ d\_ss\_t\_sf\_\_d \_nd w\_nt t\_ q\_\_t th\_  
c\_mp\_ny. P\_l\_ts h\_v\_ b\_\_n \_ff\_r\_d s\_l\_ry \_ncr\_\_s\_s \_f  
\_p\_t\_ \$11,700 \_nd l\_y\_lty b\_n\_s\_s \_f \$14,000. \_l\_ng-  
s\_rv\_ng p\_l\_t t\_ld th\_ BBC th\_s w\_s, "t\_\_ l\_ttl\_, t\_\_  
l\_t\_." H\_s\_\_d: "Th\_r\_ \_s \_l\_ck \_f b\_s\_c b\_n\_f\_ts [f\_r  
p\_l\_ts] - n\_ fr\_\_ b\_ttl\_s \_f w\_t\_r, c\_ff\_\_ \_r t\_\_ \_nd n\_  
cr\_w m\_\_ls." H\_s\_\_d p\_l\_ts \_ls\_ h\_d t\_ b\_y th\_\_r \_wn  
\_n\_f\_rm. H\_\_dd\_d: "P\_\_pl\_ h\_v\_ j\_st h\_d \_n\_\_gh \_f  
th\_ t\_x\_c\_tm\_sph\_r\_."

Mr \_'L\_\_ry \_s \_tt\_mpt\_ng t\_ r\_p\_\_r th\_ d\_m\_g\_ d\_n\_  
t\_ Ry\_n\_\_r's r\_p\_t\_t\_\_n \_ft\_r \_sch\_d\_l\_ng \_rr\_r w\_th  
p\_l\_t h\_l\_d\_ys. Th\_ c\_stly m\_st\_k\_ m\_\_nt m\_r\_ th\_n  
20,000 fl\_ghts h\_v\_ b\_\_n c\_nc\_ll\_d r\_c\_ntly b\_c\_\_s\_\_ \_f  
\_l\_ck \_f \_v\_\_l\_b\_l\_ p\_l\_ts. Th\_s h\_s \_ff\_ct\_d \_v\_r  
700,000 p\_ss\_ng\_rs. \_n \_nd\_stry \_n\_lyst s\_\_d th\_  
\_\_rl\_n\_ m\_d\_ th\_s c\_stly \_rr\_r, "by \_n\_t\_\_lly  
d\_sr\_sp\_ct\_ng th\_ sk\_ll s\_t \_f p\_l\_ts". H\_\_dd\_d: "\_n\_  
r\_r\_ m\_v\_, [Ry\_n\_\_r] \_s b\_\_ng f\_rc\_d t\_ b\_ckp\_d\_l,  
\_p\_l\_g\_z\_ \_nd m\_\_t [p\_l\_ts'] p\_y\_d\_m\_nds." \_'L\_\_ry \_s  
c\_nf\_d\_nt th\_t p\_l\_ts w\_ll st\_y. H\_s\_\_d: "\_ \_rg\_ y\_\_  
t\_ st\_y w\_th Ry\_n\_\_r f\_r \_br\_ght\_r, b\_ttr\_f\_t\_r\_f\_r  
y\_\_ \_nd y\_\_r\_f\_m\_ly." H\_\_dd\_d: "W\_\_ \_r\_ \_v\_ry  
s\_c\_r\_ \_mpl\_y\_r \_n \_v\_ry \_ns\_c\_r\_ \_nd\_stry."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

the boss of europe's biggest low-cost airline has promised to increase the pay and working conditions of pilots to stop them leaving the company michael o'leary ceo of ryanair made a personal pledge to the budget carrier's 4200 pilots to address concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to quit the company pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11700 and loyalty bonuses of \$14000 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" he said pilots also had to buy their own uniform he added "people have just had enough of the toxic atmosphere"

mr o'leary is attempting to repair the damage done to ryanair's reputation after a scheduling error with pilot holidays the costly mistake meant more than 20000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a lack of available pilots this has affected over 700000 passengers an industry analyst said the airline made this costly error "by initially disrespecting the skill set of pilots" he added "in a rare move [ryanair] is being forced to backpedal apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands" o'leary is confident that pilots will stay he said "i urge you to stay with ryanair for a brighter better future for you and your family" he added "we are a very secure employer in a very insecure industry"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1710/171009-pilots.html>

The boss of Europe's biggest low-cost airline has promised to increase the pay and working conditions of pilots to stop them leaving the company. Michael O'Leary, CEO of Ryanair, made a personal pledge to the budget carrier's 4,200 pilots to address concerns that pilots are dissatisfied and want to quit the company. Pilots have been offered salary increases of up to \$11,700 and loyalty bonuses of \$14,000. 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." He said pilots also had to buy their own uniform. He added: "People have just had enough of the toxic atmosphere." Mr O'Leary is attempting to repair the damage done to Ryanair's reputation after a scheduling error with pilot holidays. The costly mistake meant more than 20,000 flights have been cancelled recently because of a lack of available pilots. This has affected over 700,000 passengers. An industry analyst said the airline made this costly error, "by initially disrespecting the skill set of pilots". He added: "In a rare move, [Ryanair] is being forced to backpedal, apologize and meet [pilots'] pay demands." O'Leary is confident that pilots will stay. He said: "I urge you to stay with Ryanair for a brighter, better future for you and your family." He added: "We are a very secure employer in a very insecure industry."





# 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 news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. PILOTS:** Make a poster about pilots. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. CONDITIONS:** Write a magazine article about airline pilots having to pay for their own meals, water and uniforms. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on pilots. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on being a pilot. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. boss       | a. chief              |
| 2. pledge     | b. promise            |
| 3. basic      | c. fundamental        |
| 4. buy        | d. purchase           |
| 5. toxic      | e. poisonous          |
| 6. attempting | f. trying             |
| 7. costly     | g. expensive          |
| 8. initially  | h. at first           |
| 9. backpedal  | i. (do an) about-face |
| 10. industry  | j. trade              |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. A low-cost / budget airline
2. 4,200
3. \$14,000
4. The pilots
5. Toxic
6. Its reputation
7. Over 700,000
8. Pilots' pay demands
9. A brighter, better future
10. Insecure

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. a    2. c    3. d    4. b    5. a    6. d    7. c    8. b    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)