

## Airline pays staff bonus for spotting oversized bags

24th July 2025



The Irish budget airline Ryanair has a plan to deal with oversized luggage. The airline could increase a bonus it pays to staff for spotting bags that are too big. Ryanair staff currently get a "gate bag bonus" of €1.50 (\$1.75) a passenger. This bonus is capped at about €80 (\$94) a month.

Ryanair's chief executive officer (CEO) wants to remove the monthly cap. He hopes removing it will mean fewer large bags going on the aircraft. The CEO said: "We're already struggling with that amount of baggage. That's one of the reasons we are so aggressive about [cutting] the [number] of passengers with excess baggage." Passengers must pay a fee of up to €75 for oversized bags and suitcases.

Ryanair's CEO said being stricter with baggage was necessary, even though most people follow the rules. He said more than 99.9 per cent of passengers have luggage that fits within the size limits. Ryanair said most people knew about the company's baggage rules because they are clear to see on different websites. The company said: "Our bag policies and options are well understood, and we remind customers of this when booking, before they travel, and on their boarding pass. A very small proportion of customers who do not [follow our rules] will be charged at the airport." The company hopes the problem of oversized luggage will disappear within a few years.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [foxbusiness.com](https://www.foxbusiness.com) / [thesun.co.uk](https://www.thesun.co.uk)

## Writing

There should be big charges for people who take too much on airplanes. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

budget airline / luggage / bonus / staff / passenger / CEO / struggling / suitcases / follow the rules / size limits / policies / customers / boarding pass / airport / problem

## True / False

- 1) Ryanair staff get a bonus for carrying very heavy bags. T / F
- 2) The most a staff member can currently get as a bonus is \$175 a month. T / F
- 3) The CEO of the airline wants to take away the cap on bonuses. T / F
- 4) Ryanair passenger must pay a fee of up to 75 euros for oversized bags. T / F
- 5) The CEO said most passengers followed Ryanair's baggage rules. T / F
- 6) Ryanair said very few people know about its baggage rules. T / F
- 7) Ryanair reminds customers about baggage rules when they book. T / F
- 8) The CEO hopes there will be no more oversized baggage in a few years. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>budget</b>     | a. regulations |
| 2. <b>spotting</b>   | b. choices     |
| 3. <b>capped</b>     | c. charge      |
| 4. <b>aggressive</b> | d. plain       |
| 5. <b>fee</b>        | e. go away     |
| 6. <b>rules</b>      | f. forceful    |
| 7. <b>clear</b>      | g. ratio       |
| 8. <b>options</b>    | h. low-cost    |
| 9. <b>proportion</b> | i. limited     |
| 10. <b>disappear</b> | j. detecting   |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of your country's national airline?
- c) Why are some airlines strict with the weight of baggage?
- d) In what ways are budget airlines and non-budget airlines different?
- e) Do you worry about what is in the luggage of other passengers?
- f) What good and bad experiences have you had of flying?
- g) What should happen to passengers who do not follow the rules?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the boss of a budget airline?

## Phrase Match

1. a plan to deal
  2. This bonus is capped at
  3. it will mean fewer large bags
  4. one of the reasons we are so
  5. pay a fee of up
  6. people knew about the company's
  7. they are clear to see
  8. we remind customers of this
  9. boarding
  10. oversized luggage will disappear
- a. going on the aircraft
  - b. pass
  - c. to €75
  - d. within a few years
  - e. aggressive
  - f. on different websites
  - g. with oversized luggage
  - h. baggage rules
  - i. about €80
  - j. when booking

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of airlines?
- b) What do you think of the baggage allowance on airplanes?
- c) What do you think of flying?
- d) What do you think of budget airlines?
- e) What are the good and bad things about flying?
- f) What should the weight limit be for taking baggage on airplanes?
- g) What can people do to cut down on the weight of their luggage?
- h) What things do you need to take with you onto an airplane?

## Spelling

1. The Irish debutg airline Ryanair
2. Ryanair's chief etuecvxie officer (CEO)
3. We're already rnuiqlgqts with that
4. we are so grsasevieg
5. passengers with sexsce baggage
6. oversized bags and tsceisaus
7. being tcrirtes with baggage
8. Our bag iesicpol and options
9. we remind meucssotr of this
10. on their danibgor pass
11. A very small ooptrpion
12. oversized luggage will ppieadars

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.  
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What kind of airline did the article say Ryanair is?
2.	What is the biggest "gate bag bonus" a worker can get in one month?
3.	What does the Ryanair CEO want to remove?
4.	What did the CEO say Ryanair was struggling with?
5.	What is the highest fee a passenger might pay for an oversized bag?
6.	What percentage of passengers follow the baggage size rules?
7.	Where can people clearly see Ryanair's baggage size rules?
8.	What did Ryanair say people understood well?
9.	Where are people who do not follow the baggage rules charged?
10.	What might disappear in a few years from now?

## Speaking – Airplanes

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

- The seats
- The cabin crew
- Being in the air
- Airports
- Airplane food
- In-flight entertainment
- Landing
- Taking off

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.