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Level 5 – 2nd November 2026

Study finds majority of pilots nod off mid-flight

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-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/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-5.html

Sources: https://www.**fodors.com**/world/europe/experiences/news/european-pilots-are-accidentally-falling-asleep-in-the-cockpit
https://www.**euronews.com**/2026/10/28/more-than-half-of-pilots-say-they-flew-while-tired-as-trust-in-reporting-systems-remains-l
https://www.**theguardian.com**/business/2026/oct/26/quarter-europe-airline-pilots-fly-too-fatigued-to-work-survey

PHRASE MATCHING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-5.html

PARAGRAPH ONE:

1. A new report has raised	a. dozed off
2. conducted a survey	b. underreported
3. both widespread and	c. flying an aircraft
4. More than three-quarters of	d. rest
5. they had briefly	e. concerns
6. while	f. respondents
7. declared themselves unfit	g. of 7,200 pilots
8. not enough	h. for duty

PARAGRAPH TWO:

1. The pilots were very	a. from their bosses
2. they were reluctant to report	b. consequences
3. they feared punishment	c. top priority
4. pilots fear career	d. situations
5. exhaustion can impair	e. honest
6. responding effectively to unexpected	f. without worries
7. pilots can report tiredness	g. judgement
8. make passenger safety their	h. fatigue

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-5.html

A new report has (1) _____ pilot fatigue. The European Cockpit Association (ECA) (2) _____ of 7,200 pilots. It found that pilot exhaustion (3) _____ and underreported. More than three-quarters of respondents said they had (4) _____ while flying an aircraft. Almost a quarter of them (5) _____ even when they were too tired. Furthermore, half said they had flown when they should have declared themselves (6) _____. Tiredness can result from long working hours, not enough rest, and unpredictable schedules.

The pilots were very honest in (7) _____. Many said they were reluctant to report fatigue because they (8) _____ their bosses. A director of the ECA warned: "When pilots fear career consequences, fatigue goes unreported and the risk returns (9) _____." Safety experts say exhaustion (10) _____, slow reaction times and prevent pilots from responding effectively to unexpected situations. The (11) _____ to create a culture in which pilots can report tiredness without worries. Airlines should make passenger safety (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-5.html

Anewreporthasraisedconcernsaboutpilotfatigue.TheEuropeanCockpitAssociation(ECA)conductedasurveyof7,200pilots.Itfoundthatpilotexhaustionisbothwidespreadandunderreported.Morethanthree-quartersofrespondentssaidtheyhadbrieflydozedoffwhileflyinganaircraft.Almostaquarterofthemadmittedtoflyingevenwhentheyweretootired.Furthermore,halfsaidtheyhadflownwhentheyshouldhavedeclaredthemselvesunfitforduty.Tirednesscanresultfromlongworkinghours,notenoughrest,andunpredictableschedules.Thepilotswereveryhonestintheirsurveyanswers.Manysaidtheywerereluctanttoreportfatiguebecausetheyfearedpunishmentfromtheirbosses.AdirectoroftheECAwarned:"Whenpilotsfearcareerconsequences,fatiguegoesunreportedandtheriskreturnstothecockpit."Safetyexpertssayexhaustioncanimpairjudgement,slowreactiontimesandpreventpilotsfromrespondingeffectivelytounexpectedsituations.Theexpertsurgedairlinestocreateacultureinwhichpilotscanreporttirednesswithoutworries.Airlinesshouldmakepassengersafetytheirtoppriority.

FATIGUE SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-4.html

Write five GOOD questions about fatigue 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) _____

WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261102-pilot-fatigue-5.html

Write about **fatigue** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.