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Level 6 – 16th November 2026

Wire upgrade at fault for grounding all US flights

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

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

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THE ARTICLE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Thousands of flights across the USA were grounded on Friday the 13th following a major communications failure in the country's air traffic control system. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a nationwide ground stop after problems with radar and communications equipment. More than 3,500 airplanes were in the air at the time. Thousands of flights were cancelled, leaving passengers stranded at airports nationwide. The problem was eventually traced to an overloaded router, possibly as a result of maintenance work to replace decades-old copper wires with fibre-optic cables. The FAA lifted the ground stop almost five hours later. Operations may take days to return to normal.

The incident sparked widespread concern. Officials quickly reassured the public that it was not another 9/11. The US homeland security secretary said there had been no indication of a cyberattack or national security threat. He described the incident as a "telecommunications outage". Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed the failure on outdated infrastructure. He said: "We have old switches and old routers. We use 1980s little copper lines." He added: "It's an old system that went down. It went down everywhere. It got overloaded." Duffy warned that systems would "continue to break" unless Congress allocated extra funds. He said: "I can't build things if I don't have money."

Sources: https://www.**yahoo.com**/news/us/article/faa-says-nationwide-ground-stop-is-over-after-thousands-of-flights-canceled-021133009.html
https://www.**theguardian.com**/world/2026/nov/13/faa-nationwide-ground-stop-flights
https://www.**bbc.com**/news/articles/c6wy9lynq4qno

WARM-UPS

1. FLYING: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about flying. 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?

flights / Friday the 13th / communications / air traffic control / airplanes / router / incident / concern / security / cyberattack / telecommunications / failure / systems

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

3. AVIATION: Students A **strongly** believe all technology in aviation should be no longer than 10 years old.; Students B **strongly** believe that's unnecessary. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. TRANSPORT: How safe are these forms of transport? How important are they? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Safety	Importance
Airplanes		
Ferries		
Bicycles		
Cars		
Trains		
Subways		

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

6. EXTRA FUNDS: Rank these with your partner. Put the best things governments can spend extra funds on at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Aviation safety
- Healthcare
- Policing
- Renewables
- Education
- Data centres
- Roads and railways
- Defence

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	grounded	a.	The work of keeping something in good condition and fixing it when needed.
2.	aviation	b.	A system that uses radio waves to find and track things in the air.
3.	radar	c.	The activity of designing, building and flying aircraft.
4.	identified	d.	Unable to leave a place or travel somewhere.
5.	maintenance	e.	On the ground and not allowed to fly.
6.	at fault	f.	Found out who or what someone or something is.
7.	stranded	g.	Responsible for something bad that happened.

Paragraph 2

8.	incident	h.	A sign that something may be happening or is true.
9.	sparked	i.	The basic systems and services that a place needs to work, such as roads, power and water.
10.	reassured	j.	A time when a service or system stops working.
11.	indication	k.	Caused something to start or happen.
12.	outage	l.	Chosen for a particular person or purpose.
13.	infrastructure	m.	Something that happens, often something unusual or bad.
14.	allocated	n.	Made someone feel less worried.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

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

1. The article says tens of thousands of flights in the US were grounded. **T / F**
2. Over 3,500 planes were in the air when the ground stop was announced. **T / F**
3. The problem was identified as a defect in fibre-optic cables. **T / F**
4. The FAA said it would be two weeks for normal services to be resumed. **T / F**
5. Officials told the public the incident was not another 9/11 attack. **T / F**
6. The homeland security secretary said it was a communications outrage. **T / F**
7. The transportation secretary said the system used wires from the 1980s. **T / F**
8. The transportation secretary said he needed more funds. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1. major	a. set off
2. failure	b. ancient
3. equipment	c. removed
4. stranded	d. breakdown
5. lifted	e. cease to function
6. sparked	f. serious
7. indication	g. distributed
8. outdated	h. helpless
9. break	i. sign
10. allocated	j. hardware

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

1. Thousands of flights across the USA	a. overloaded
2. following a major communications	b. equipment
3. problems with radar and communications	c. with fibre-optic cables
4. More than 3,500 airplanes were	d. funds
5. replace decades-old copper wires	e. in the air at the time
6. The incident sparked	f. were grounded
7. there had been no indication	g. down
8. It's an old system that went	h. widespread concern
9. It got	i. failure
10. Congress allocated extra	j. of a cyberattack

GAP FILL

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Thousands of flights across the USA were grounded on Friday the 13th following a (1) _____ communications failure in the country's air traffic control system. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a (2) _____ ground stop after problems with radar and communications (3) _____. More than 3,500 airplanes were in the (4) _____ at the time. Thousands of flights were cancelled, leaving passengers (5) _____ at airports nationwide. The problem was eventually traced to an overloaded (6) _____, possibly as a result of maintenance work to replace decades-old copper (7) _____ with fibre-optic cables. The FAA lifted the ground stop almost five hours later. Operations may take days to return to (8) _____.

nationwide

router

equipment

normal

stranded

major

wires

air

The incident (9) _____ widespread concern. Officials quickly reassured the (10) _____ that it was not another 9/11. The US homeland security secretary said there had been no (11) _____ of a cyberattack or national security threat. He described the incident as a "telecommunications (12) _____". Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed the failure on (13) _____ infrastructure. He said: "We have old switches and old routers. We use 1980s little (14) _____ lines." He added: "It's an old system that went down. It went down everywhere. It got overloaded." Duffy warned that systems would "continue to break" unless Congress (15) _____ extra funds. He said: "I can't build (16) _____ if I don't have money."

indication

sparked

outdated

things

outage

allocated

public

copper

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

1) grounded on Friday the 13th following a _____
   a. major communications failures
   b. majority communications failure
   c. major communications failure
   d. majorly communications failure
2) ordered a nationwide ground stop after _____
   a. problem with radar
   b. problems with graded
   c. problems with radar
   d. problems with ray dart
3) Thousands of flights were cancelled, leaving passengers _____
   a. stranded at airports
   b. stranded that airports
   c. strand it at airports
   d. stand it at airports
4) maintenance work to replace decades-old copper wires with _____
   a. fibre-optics cables
   b. fibre-op tic cables
   c. fibre-op tick cables
   d. fibre-optic cables
5) Operations may take days to _____
   a. return too normal
   b. returns to normal
   c. return to normal
   d. return to norm all
6) Officials quickly reassured the public that it was _____
   a. not others 9/11
   b. not other 9/11
   c. not the other 9/11
   d. not another 9/11
7) there had been no indication of a cyberattack or _____
   a. national security treat
   b. nation aal security threat
   c. national security threat
   d. national secure threat
8) Secretary Sean Duffy blamed the failure _____
   a. on out date it infrastructure
   b. on outdated infrastructure
   c. on outdate it infrastructure
   d. in-out dated infrastructure
9) It's an old system that went down. It went down everywhere. _____.
   a. It got overload did
   b. It got over low did
   c. It got overloaded
   d. It got overload
10) systems would "continue to break" unless Congress _____
   a. allocate extra funds
   b. allocated extra funds
   c. allocated extra finds
   d. allocation extra funds

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Thousands of flights across the USA (1) _____ Friday the 13th following a major communications failure in the country's air (2) _____. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a nationwide ground stop after problems with (3) _____ equipment. More than 3,500 airplanes were in the air at the time. Thousands of flights were cancelled, (4) _____ at airports nationwide. The problem was eventually traced to an overloaded router, possibly as a result of maintenance work to (5) _____ copper wires with fibre-optic cables. The FAA lifted the ground stop almost five hours later. Operations may take days to (6) _____.

The (7) _____ concern. Officials quickly reassured the public that it was not another 9/11. The US (8) _____ said there had been no indication of a cyberattack or national security threat. He (9) _____ as a "telecommunications outage". Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy (10) _____ on outdated infrastructure. He said: "We have old switches and old routers. We use 1980s (11) _____." He added: "It's an old system that went down. It went down everywhere. It got overloaded." Duffy warned that systems would "continue to break" unless Congress (12) _____. He said: "I can't build things if I don't have money."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

1. How many flights were grounded?

2. How many airplanes were in the air at the time of the ground stop?

3. What happened to many passengers?

4. What piece of equipment may have been overloaded?

5. How long did the ground stop last?

6. What did officials say wasn't happening?

7. What did the homeland security secretary describe the incident as being?

8. What did the homeland security secretary blame the failure on?

9. Where did the homeland security secretary say the system went down?

10. What does the homeland security secretary want Congress to allocate?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

1) How many flights were grounded?
a) 27,203
b) tens of thousands
c) hundreds
d) thousands

2) How many airplanes were in the air at the time of the ground stop?
a) exactly 3,500
b) more than 3,500
c) around 3,500
d) just fewer than 3,500

3) What happened to many passengers?
a) They slept on planes.
b) They lost money.
c) They were stranded.
d) They went hungry.

4) What piece of equipment may have been overloaded?
a) a router
b) a hard drive
c) a black box
d) a radar system

5) How long did the ground stop last?
a) three hours
b) four hours
c) five hours
d) six hours

6) What did officials say wasn't happening?
a) a cyberattack
b) another 9/11
c) a rogue AI event
d) a test practice

7) What did the homeland security secretary describe the incident as being?
a) a warning
b) a meltdown of hardware
c) unfortunate
d) a telecommunications outage

8) What did the homeland security secretary blame the failure on?
a) outdated infrastructure
b) AI
c) a lack of funding
d) nefarious actors

9) Where did the homeland security secretary say the system went down?
a) in control towers
b) in Kansas
c) everywhere
d) in basements

10) What does the homeland security secretary want Congress to allocate?
a) responsibility
b) extra funds
c) blame
d) land

ROLE PLAY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Role A – Aviation Safety

You think aviation safety is the best thing for governments to spend extra funds on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): policing, renewables or data centres.

Role B – Policing

You think policing is the best thing for governments to spend extra funds on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): aviation safety, renewables or data centres.

Role C – Renewables

You think renewables is the best thing for governments to spend extra funds on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): policing, aviation safety or data centres.

Role D – Data Centres

You think data centres are the best things for governments to spend extra funds on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): policing, renewables or aviation safety.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for… the words 'upgrade' and 'flight'.

upgrade	**flight**

- 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:

• across • ordered • time • stranded • result • five	• another • indication • described • switches • break • build

FLYING SURVEY

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Write five GOOD questions about flying 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.

FLYING 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 'upgrade'?
3. What do you think of flying?
4. Do you ever worry about Friday the 13th?
5. What things does an air traffic controller do?
6. How bad is a communications failure in air traffic control systems?
7. How would you feel if you were in the air then?
8. How safe or dangerous is flying?
9. Why are countries still using copper and not fibre-optic cables?
10. What can we do to make flying better?

FLYING 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 'flight'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How often are you concerned about news?
15. How often are you concerned about cyberattacks?
16. Has your country experienced a national security threat?
17. What is the infrastructure in your country like?
18. Have you ever been overloaded?
19. What is the future of flying?
20. What questions would you like to ask an aviation expert?

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 https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Thousands of flights across the USA were grounded on Friday the 13th (1) _____ a major communications failure (2) _____ the country's air traffic control system. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a nationwide ground stop after problems with radar and communications equipment. More than 3,500 airplanes were (3) _____ the air at the time. Thousands of flights were cancelled, leaving passengers (4) _____ at airports nationwide. The problem was eventually traced to an overloaded router, possibly as a result of (5) _____ work to replace decades-old copper wires with fibre-optic cables. The FAA (6) _____ the ground stop almost five hours later. Operations may take days to return to normal.

The incident (7) _____ widespread concern. Officials quickly reassured the public that it was not another 9/11. The US homeland security secretary said there had been no indication (8) _____ a cyberattack or national security threat. He described the incident as a "telecommunications (9) _____". Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed the failure on outdated infrastructure. He said: "We have old (10) _____ and old routers. We use 1980s little copper lines." He added: "It's an old system that went (11) _____. It went down everywhere. It got overloaded." Duffy warned that systems would "continue to break" unless Congress (12) _____ extra funds. He said: "I can't build things if I don't have money."

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

1.	(a)	following	(b)	followed	(c)	follower	(d)	follows
2.	(a)	at	(b)	as	(c)	in	(d)	by
3.	(a)	up	(b)	over	(c)	in	(d)	to
4.	(a)	astounded	(b)	straddled	(c)	stood	(d)	stranded
5.	(a)	maintenance	(b)	maintains	(c)	maintain	(d)	maintaining
6.	(a)	upped	(b)	lifted	(c)	elevated	(d)	raised
7.	(a)	peaked	(b)	sparkled	(c)	poked	(d)	sparked
8.	(a)	at	(b)	of	(c)	on	(d)	as
9.	(a)	outrage	(b)	rage	(c)	outage	(d)	entourage
10.	(a)	witches	(b)	swathes	(c)	swashes	(d)	switches
11.	(a)	downs	(b)	downing	(c)	downer	(d)	down
12.	(a)	indicated	(b)	allocated	(c)	sophisticated	(d)	complicated

SPELLING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Paragraph 1

1. a major isocmtomniunca failure

2. The Federal iaivtnAo Administration

3. radar and communications pmniueqte

4. The problem was evuetlanyl traced

5. as a result of neaentciman

6. fibre-ptoci cables

Paragraph 2

7. The dteninci sparked widespread concern

8. no indication of a tyecktrcaab

9. outdated tcusaritrrfenu

10. old hsetcisw

11. eoprpc lines

12. lldeaoact extra funds

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

( ) 9/11. The US homeland security secretary said there had been no indication of a cyberattack or national security

( ) break" unless Congress allocated extra funds. He said: "I can't build things if I don't have money."

( ) everywhere. It got overloaded." Duffy warned that systems would "continue to

( ) failure in the country's air traffic control system. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a nationwide

( ) five hours later. Operations may take days to return to normal.

( ) ground stop after problems with radar and communications equipment. More than 3,500 airplanes were in

( ) nationwide. The problem was eventually traced to an overloaded router, possibly as a result of maintenance

( ) routers. We use 1980s little copper lines." He added: "It's an old system that went down. It went down

( ) the air at the time. Thousands of flights were cancelled, leaving passengers stranded at airports

( ) the failure on outdated infrastructure. He said: "We have old switches and old

( ) The incident sparked widespread concern. Officials quickly reassured the public that it was not another

(***1***) Thousands of flights across the USA were grounded on Friday the 13th following a major communications

( ) threat. He described the incident as a "telecommunications outage". Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed

( ) work to replace decades-old copper wires with fibre-optic cables. The FAA lifted the ground stop almost

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

1. across flights grounded of Thousands the USA were .

2. airports at cancelled, Flights leaving passengers stranded were .

3. an overloaded problem router The to was traced .

4. copper decades-old Maintenance replace to wires work .

5. days may normal Operations return take to to .

6. 9/11 another it not people that was Reassured .

7. a been cyberattack had indication no of There .

8. a as described He incident outage telecommunications the .

9. an down It's old system that went .

10. allocated break Congress extra funds Systems unless would .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Thousands of flights across the USA were grounded on Friday the 13th *following / followed* a major communications *fail / failure* in the country's air traffic control system. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a nationwide ground stop *post / after* problems with radar and communications equipment. More than 3,500 airplanes were *on / in* the air at the time. Thousands of flights were cancelled, *leaving / left* passengers stranded at airports nationwide. The problem was *eventually / eventual* traced to an overloaded *roster / router*, possibly as a result *to / of* maintenance work to replace decades-old copper wires with fibre-optic cables. The FAA *upped / lifted* the ground stop almost five hours later. Operations may take days to return *for / to* normal.

The incident *sparked / sparkled* widespread concern. Officials quickly reassured the public *that / what* it was not another 9/11. The US homeland security secretary said there had been *no / none* indication of a cyberattack or national security *threat / treat*. He described the incident *was / as* a "telecommunications outage". Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy blamed the failure *in / on* outdated infrastructure. He said: "We have old *switches / swathes* and old routers. We use 1980s little copper lines." He added: "It's an old system that went down. *It / They* went down everywhere. It got overloaded." Duffy warned that systems would "continue to break" *unless / useless* Congress allocated extra funds. He said: "I can't *built / build* things if I don't have money."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

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

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Th__s_nds _f fl_ghts _cr_ss th_ _S_ w_r_ gr__nd_d _n Fr_d_y th_ 13th f_ll_w_ng _ m_j_r c_mm_n_c_t__ns f__l_r_ _n th_ c__ntry's __r tr_ff_c c_ntr_l syst_m. Th_ F_d_r_l _v__t__n _dm_n_str_t__n (F__) _rd_r_d _ n_t__nw_d_ gr__nd st_p _ft_r pr_bl_ms w_th r_d_r _nd c_mm_n_c_t__ns _q__pm_nt. M_r_ th_n 3,500 __rpl_n_s w_r_ _n th_ __r _t th_ t_m_. Th__s_nds _f fl_ghts w_r_ c_nc_ll_d, l__v_ng p_ss_ng_rs str_nd_d _t __rp_rts n_t__nw_d_. Th_ pr_bl_m w_s _v_nt__lly tr_c_d t_ _n _v_rl__d_d r__t_r, p_ss_bly _s _ r_s_lt _f m__nt_n_nc_ w_rk t_ r_pl_c_ d_c_d_s-_ld c_pp_r w_r_s w_th f_br_-_pt_c c_bl_s. Th_ F__ l_ft_d th_ gr__nd st_p _lm_st f_v_ h__rs l_t_r. _p_r_t__ns m_y t_k_ d_ys t_ r_t_rn t_ n_rm_l.

Th_ _nc_d_nt sp_rk_d w_d_spr__d c_nc_rn. _ff_c__ls q__ckly r__ss_r_d th_ p_bl_c th_t _t w_s n_t _n_th_r 9/11. Th_ _S h_m_l_nd s_c_r_ty s_cr_t_ry s__d th_r_ h_d b__n n_ _nd_c_t__n _f _ cyb_r_tt_ck _r n_t__n_l s_c_r_ty thr__t. H_ d_scr_b_d th_ _nc_d_nt _s _ "t_l_c_mm_n_c_t__ns __t_g_". Tr_nsp_rt_t__n S_cr_t_ry S__n D_ffy bl_m_d th_ f__l_r_ _n __td_t_d _nfr_str_ct_r_. H_ s__d: "W_ h_v_ _ld sw_tch_s _nd _ld r__t_rs. W_ _s_ 1980s l_ttl_ c_pp_r l_n_s." H_ _dd_d: "_t's _n _ld syst_m th_t w_nt d_wn. _t w_nt d_wn _v_rywh_r_. _t g_t _v_rl__d_d." D_ffy w_rn_d th_t syst_ms w__ld "c_nt_n__ t_ br__k" _nl_ss C_ngr_ss _ll_c_t_d _xtr_ f_nds. H_ s__d: "_ c_n't b__ld th_ngs _f _ d_n't h_v_ m_n_y."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

thousands of flights across the usa were grounded on friday the 13th following a major communications failure in the countrys air traffic control system the federal aviation administration faa ordered a nationwide ground stop after problems with radar and communications equipment more than 3500 airplanes were in the air at the time thousands of flights were cancelled leaving passengers stranded at airports nationwide the problem was eventually traced to an overloaded router possibly as a result of maintenance work to replace decadesold copper wires with fibreoptic cables the faa lifted the ground stop almost five hours later operations may take days to return to normal

the incident sparked widespread concern officials quickly reassured the public that it was not another 911 the us homeland security secretary said there had been no indication of a cyberattack or national security threat he described the incident as a telecommunications outage transportation secretary sean duffy blamed the failure on outdated infrastructure he said we have old switches and old routers we use 1980s little copper lines he added its an old system that went down it went down everywhere it got overloaded duffy warned that systems would continue to break unless congress allocated extra funds he said i cant build things if i dont have money

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

ThousandsofflightsacrosstheUSAweregroundedonFridaythe13thfollowingamajorcommunicationsfailureinthecountry'sairtrafficcontrolsystem.TheFederalAviationAdministration(FAA)orderedanationwidegroundstopafterproblemswithradarandcommunicationsequipment.Morethan3,500airplaneswereintheairatthetime.Thousandsofflightswerecancelled,leavingpassengersstrandedatairportsnationwide.Theproblemwaseventuallytracedtoanoverloadedrouter,possiblyasaresultofmaintenanceworktoreplacedecades-oldcopperwireswithfibre-opticcables.TheFAAliftedthegroundstopalmostfivehourslater.Operationsmaytakedaystoreturntonormal.Theincidentsparkedwidespreadconcern.Officialsquicklyreassuredthepublicthatitwasnotanother9/11.TheUShomelandsecuritysecretarysaidtherehadbeennoindicationofacyberattackornationalsecuritythreat.Hedescribedtheincidentasa"telecommunicationsoutage".TransportationSecretarySeanDuffyblamedthefailureonoutdatedinfrastructure.Hesaid:"Wehaveoldswitchesandoldrouters.Weuse1980slittlecopperlines."Headded:"It'sanoldsystemthatwentdown.Itwentdowneverywhere.Itgotoverloaded."Duffywarnedthatsystemswould"continuetobreak"unlessCongressallocatedextrafunds.Hesaid:"Ican'tbuildthingsifIdon'thavemoney."

FREE WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Write about **flying** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2611/261116-ground-stop-at-us-airports.html

Airports should always have the very latest technology. Discuss.

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

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

4. UPGRADE: Write a magazine article about all companies being fined unless they immediately upgrade their systems. 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 flying. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to make flying better. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1.	e	2.	c	3.	b	4.	f	5.	a	6.	g	7.	d
8.	m	9.	k	10.	n	11.	h	12.	j	13.	i	14.	l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Thousands
2. More than 3,500
3. They were stranded.
4. A router
5. Five hours
6. Another 9/11
7. A telecommunications outage
8. Outdated infrastructure
9. Everywhere
10. Extra funds

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Thousands of flights across the USA were grounded.
2. Flights were cancelled, leaving passengers stranded at airports.
3. The problem was traced to an overloaded router.
4. Maintenance work to replace decades-old copper wires.
5. Operations may take days to return to normal.
6. Reassured people that it was not another 9/11.
7. There had been no indication of a cyberattack.
8. He described the incident as a telecommunications outage.
9. It's an old system that went down.
10. Systems would break unless Congress allocated extra funds.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1.	d	2.	b	3.	c	4.	a	5.	c	6.	b	7.	d	8.	a	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 ;-)