

## Unit 9 What mode of travel do you prefer?

### I. Lead-in

#### Key

- 1) plane    2) bike    3) truck/lorry    4) ship    5) bus    6) motorcycle  
7) subway/underground

### II. Basic listening practice

#### 1. Script

M: Would you prefer a window or an aisle seat, madam?

W: Aisle, please. If there's none left, then a window seat is OK. But I don't like middle seats.

Q: What is the order of the woman's preference?

#### 2. Script

M: I'd like to fly economy to Thailand on October 8th. I want to book two tickets.

W: We have only one seat left in economy, but we can give you two business class seats for the same price as one economy and one business class seat.

Q: What can the man get?

#### 3. Script

M: Excuse me. where do I check in for British Airways to London? I can't find the right check-in counter.

W: You should go to Counter 26 on the left-hand side, sir. It's just next to Thai Air. You'd better hurry, though. There's a long queue.

Q: What does the woman say?

#### 4. Script

W: Airport security checks always make me nervous. I'm afraid I'll set off the alarm because of the jewelry I'm wearing.

M: I know I'll set off the security alarm. I have a steel plate in my arm from a rugby injury.

Q: Why will the man set off the alarm?

#### 5. Script

M: Welcome home! Here, let me take your suitcase. The car is out in the parking lot. Your plane was two hours late. You must be exhausted.

W: Yes. We had to check in three hours before take-off time. The security guards took ages searching carry-on stuff, but they ignored check-in baggage. Strange system.

Q: What is the woman NOT complaining about?

Key: C   B   C   D   A

### III. Listening in

#### Task 1 The smaller the airport, the greater the security!

#### Script

Paul: The airport security checks sometimes seem very strange to me.

Sylvia: What do you mean?

Paul: I just completed an international flight. And with all the threats to security of travel today, I expected to have my luggage searched.

Sylvia: That's understandable. I mean, with all the fear out there about terrorism, of course they're going to check your baggage--especially your carry-ons.

Paul: I don't mind them checking my baggage. In fact, I expect it. But there seems to be an inverse ratio at work.

Sylvia: What on earth do you mean? They check everyone's baggage, don't they?

Paul: Yes, but here's what's funny: The smaller the airport, the greater the security. The less likely a plane is to be hijacked, the more precautions they take.

Sylvia: Are you serious? Why should a small airport be more aware of security than a large one?

Paul: Here's what I've experienced. Once at a small airport, they seized a roll of adhesive tape and argued that it could be used in hijacking. Then they asked me to remove my digital camera from its case and demonstrate that it could take pictures.

Sylvia: And is this different from a large airport?

Paul: According to my experience, it is. When I flew from Vancouver to Paris, they simply ran my bag through the scanner, and I was on my way.

Sylvia: If that's the case, the baggage checking system is really strange.

### **Key**

(1)security checks (2) searched (3) fear (4) carry-ons (5) checking  
(6) greater(7) seized (8)digital camera (9)take pictures (10)bags  
(11)on his way (12) strange

## **Task 2 Ships**

### **Script**

Today, I'd like to introduce you to different kinds of modern merchant ships.

First, container ships. These are cargo ships that carry their entire load in containers. They are the usual way of moving commercial freight. Informally known as "box boats", they carry the majority of the world's cargo. Most container ships have crews of between 10 to 30 people.

The second type I want to mention are bulk carriers. These ships transport bulk cargo like coal, ore, rice, and grain. They have big box-like hatches on deck. A bulk carrier could be for either dry or wet cargo. Most lakes are too small to accommodate bulk ships, but a large fleet of bulk carriers has been sailing on the Great Lakes of North America for over a century.

The third kind are tankers or cargo ships for carrying fluids like crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, chemicals, vegetable oils, wine, and other food. Tankers make up one-third of the world's tonnage.

Reefer ships are fourth. They're cargo ships that carry perishable goods like fruits, meat, fish, vegetables, and dairy products. They provide temperature-controlled transportation.

Fifth are roll-on roll-off ships. They carry wheeled cargo like automobiles, trailers or railway carriages. Roll-on roll-off vessels allow the cargo to be efficiently "rolled on" and "rolled off" the vessel.

Sixth are cruise ships, the passenger ships for pleasure trips, where the voyage itself and the ship's amenities are essential to the experience. Cruising is a big part of the tourism industry, with millions of passengers each year.

### **Questions and key**

1. Which type of ships carries most of the cargo in the world?  
A) Container ships.
2. What can we infer from the fact that bulk carriers usually do not sail on lakes?  
C) They are too large.
3. Which type of ships comprises one-third of the world's tonnage?  
O) Tankers.
4. Which of the following IS NOT mentioned as cargo that reefer ships carry?  
D) Eggs.
5. Which of the following makes the experience on a cruise ship pleasant?  
D) Both B and C

### **Task 3 High-speed passenger trains**

#### **Script**

Recently the frequency of service on the Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed passenger trains has doubled.

The line commenced operations last December and carried about 50,000 passengers per day. Starting July 1st, the line increased its carrying capacity to over 80,000 passengers per day and frequency to every 10 to 25 minutes.

At a top speed of 350 kilometers per hour, it takes about three hours to travel the over 1,000 kilometers between Guangzhou and Wuhan. At present it is one of the longest railway lines in the world.

At this high speed, the Wuhan- Guangzhou line has served the local population well at prices that are not unreasonably high. One indication of this is that the high-speed train service has forced the cost of air travel along the line to fall below the cost of a second-class train ticket, meaning that the high-speed train service has already become more competitive than the service offered by the airlines. With the doubling of frequency of service, getting aboard the high-speed train in Guangzhou to go to cities hundreds of miles away in Hunan and Hubei provinces is as convenient as taking a local train or a subway in the Pearl River Delta region. The large saving of time, even compared with traveling by air, is a great benefit to travelers and their business, whether personal, corporate or public. Obviously, the regional economy will benefit a great deal.

### **Questions and key**

1. Compared with last December, how many more passengers are carried per day after July 1st?  
A) 30,000
2. What is the top speed of the Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed train?  
B) 350 km per hour.

3. What is true of air travel since the launch of high-speed train service?  
D) It's less expensive than a second-class train ticket.
4. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of the high-speed train?  
D) Quality service.
5. What is the tone of the passage?  
A) Positive

#### **IV. Speaking out: Booking a flight**

##### **Model 1: I'd like to book hotel and airline reservations.**

###### **Script**

Travel agent: Horizon Travel. How may I help you?

Helen: This is Helen Parker. (1) I'd like to book hotel and airline reservations.

Travel agent: And (2) what's your destination, Ms. Parker?

Helen: (3) I'm headed for Las Vegas to attend an electronics trade show.

Travel agent: OK. Can you spell your name, please

Helen: My last name is Parker, P-A-R-K-E-R, and my first name is Helen.

Travel agent: Will you be traveling alone?

Helen: Yes, I'll be traveling by myself.

Travel agent: (4) Will that be a one-way or a round-trip ticket?

Helen: (5) Return. I plan on leaving July 21st and coming back on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Travel agent: (6) Will you be flying first class or business class?

Helen: No, no, not a chance. Economy class, the cheapest. If there's a three- star hotel located downtown, that would be great. If it has a pool, that's better still.

Travel agent: OK. Let me check the computer. I can book your flight immediately. I'll have to inquire about the hotel reservation and call you back.

Helen: No problem. I'm at 6580266, extension 513. I'll be expecting your call.

Travel agent: OK, Ms. Parker. Thank you for your call. I'll get back to you soon. Bye bye.

Helen: Bye.

##### **Mode 2: Last week I flew non-stop to San Francisco.**

###### **Script**

Nora: Hey, John.

John: Hey!

Nora: I took a course on how the airport runs, and I don't suffer from fear of flying any more. Last week I flew non-stop to San Francisco.

John: Congratulations! Which flight did you take?

Nora: United Airlines, Flight UA858.

John: (1) How did it go? Everything smooth sailing?

Nora: Not everything. Since I hadn't traveled by air for a long time, I wasn't familiar with the airport. (2) It took me quite a while to find the United Airlines check-in counter.

John: Then how did you find it?

Nora: In fact, (3)it was displayed on the monitor: “Flight UA858 checks in at Counter 45.”

John: And was everything OK once you found it?

Nora: No, (4)there was a terrible line-up. I had to wait there for an hour.

### **Model 3: I've got jet lag.**

#### **script**

Susan: Wow! What happened?(1)You look like something the cat dragged in.

John: (2)You would too if you'd been through what I have. I've got jet lag.

Susan: Jet lag's not for real, is it? It's like a “broken heart”--a figure of speech.

John: It's for real. (3)See my eyes? They're all bloodshot. I can't eat; I can't sleep.

Susan: (4)How long does this jet lag last after you're home again and walking around?

John: I don't know exactly. It can be a day for each hour's difference in time.

Susan: Ouch! At that rate it'll take you 12 days to recover from the flight.

John: Maybe a drink on the plane can ease the jet lag.

Susan: That's not a very good idea. Alcohol dries you out when it's combined with altitude and stale dry air in the cabin.

John: (5)I wonder whether a long flight like that is worth the high cost.

Susan: Take my advice. Go by boat. Arrive rested and ready to enjoy your holiday.

John: No, It'll take too long-- longer than the time for me to (6)reset my biological clock after a flight.

### **V. Let's talk: World record balloon flight**

#### **Script**

Man on phone: You've done it. You've flown to the North Pole. Well done, mate!

Voice-over: There was jubilation at Britannic Challenge HQ. At 3 o'clock this afternoon the team decided David Hempleman-Adams had got close enough: 12.9 miles from the North Pole was further than they had dreamed possible.

David Hempleman- Adams(speaking from the Arctic): Er, I just feel exhausted... I just feel I could do with a lovely cup of tea right now.

Voice-over: After 90 hours in the air with barely any sleep, Hempleman-Adams had to abandon Plan A, to set down on the Pole itself, because of low visibility. Earlier he almost sleepwalked over the side of the balloon at 7,000 feet.

Team member: He's over the Pole, and we're over the moon. Er, we're absolutely delighted and, and pretty staggered that he's actually achieved this. He is the first man to fly over the Arctic Ocean to the North Pole.

Team: Cheers, David; cheers, David!

Voice-over: Although Hempleman- Adams did not reach the actual Pole, the control team are claiming a world first. The priority now is to get him back safely. This evening the balloon's autopilot is on and the British record-breaker is fast asleep above the Arctic Circle.

#### **Key**

- 1) The team at Britannic Challenge HQ decided David Hempleman- Adams had got (1) close enough: (2) 12.9 miles from the North Pole, which was further than they had (3) dreamed possible.
- 2) David Hempleman- Adams says “I just feel (1) exhausted... I just feel I could do with a lovely (2) cup of tea right now.”
- 3) Hempleman- Adams had to (1) abandon Plan A, to (2) set down on the Pole itself, because of (3) low visibility.
- 4) He says, “He’s over the (1) Pole, and we’re over the moon. He is the first man to (2) fly over the Arctic Ocean to the North Pole.”
- 5) This evening the balloons autopilot is (1) on and the British record-breaker is (2) fast asleep above the Arctic Circle.

## **VI. Further listening and speaking**

### **Task 1 Advantages and disadvantages of flying**

#### **Script**

Before I conclude my talk, I'd like to summarize what we have covered.

So you see, air travel has its inherent advantages. An airplane flies fast and it is now flying faster than before. Now supersonic passenger planes can fly across the Atlantic Ocean in just a couple of hours. It is reported that new models are being designed. In the future they may carry people from New York to London in less than an hour.

In the past, you know, not many people traveled by air because of the high fare. Now owing to the market competition, the fare has dropped a great deal, so more people are traveling by air. In the 1990s, the United States witnessed an explosive growth in demand for air travel. Many millions who had never, or rarely flown before, became regular passengers. They even joined frequent flyer loyalty programs, receiving free flights and other such benefits.

Flying has become increasingly convenient. The introduction of new services and more frequent flights has meant that business flyers can fly to another city, do business, and return on the same day. This applies to almost any two points in the country. Some passengers worry about safety in flying. In a crash there are usually no survivors. However, to prevent tragic accidents and serious financial loss, airlines are especially cautious about checking the conditions of aircraft to reduce the possibility of accidents to the minimum. It is sometimes claimed that flying involves fewer accidents than any other modes of travel.

The plane does have its disadvantages. For example, it is incapable of transporting large quantities of cargo. Also, an airport can be quite far away from the city center. But the advantages of flying outweigh those small drawbacks, and flying remains an efficient kind of transportation.

That's the end of my lecture. Now may I take your questions if you have any?

#### **Key**

- (1) a couple of hours   (2) less than an hour   (3) fare   (4) regular passengers  
(5) convenient   (6) the same day   (7) conditions of aircraft   (8) accidents  
(9) large quantities of cargo   (10) far away

## **Task 2 An overview of airlines**

### **Script**

An airline is an organization which provides aviation services for passengers and cargo. It owns or leases airliners to supply these services and may form partnerships or alliances with other airlines for reasons of mutual benefit. The scale and scope of airline companies range from those with a single airplane carrying mails or cargo to full-service international airlines operating many hundreds of airplanes of various types. Airline services can be categorized as inter-continental, intra continental, regional or domestic and may be operated as scheduled services or charters. These variations in the type of airline companies, their operating scope, and the routes they serve, make analyses of the airline industry complex. But one thing is certain: The industry is heavily influenced by the market now. In the past 50 years or so, the general trend has gone from government-owned or government supported to independent, for-profit companies. This is a result of the government permitting greater freedom. This trend is not yet consistent across all airlines in all regions. The demand for air travel services depends on other things: Needs for cargo transportation, business passenger demand, leisure passenger demand, which are all influenced by macroeconomic activity in the market. These trends are highly seasonal, and often depend on day of week, or time of day. The industry is cyclical. Four or five years of poor performance are followed by five or six years of gradual improvement in performance.

### **Questions and key**

1. What is the passage mainly about?  
D) An introduction to the airline industry.
2. What is true of the scale and scope of airlines?  
C) They both vary a great deal.
3. What does the demand for air travel services NOT depend on?  
D) Changes of the price.
4. What has been the general trend in the past 50 years or so?  
A) Airlines have changed from government-owned to profit-seeking enterprises.
5. What does the speaker say about the airline industry?  
B) Its business changes for better or worse after some years.

## **Task 3 Funny flight announcements**

### **Script**

Occasionally, airline crew members try to make their announcements entertaining. Here are some examples that have been reported.

One pilot delivered this welcome message: "We are pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately none of them are on this flight."

One pilot said, "Folks, we have reached our cruising altitude now, so I'm going to switch the seatbelt sign off. Feel free to move about as you wish, but please stay inside the plane till we land. It's a bit cold outside, and if you walk on the wings, it affects the flight pattern."

A Southwest Airlines employee said, "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull

it over your face. If you have small children traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with two small children, decide now which one you love more.”

Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing went like this: “we ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal.”

Still another attendant said, “As you exit the plane, please be sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses. Last one off the plane must clean it.”

### Key

1. “We are pleased to have some of the (1) best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately (2) none of them are on this flight.”
2. He said, “ Please stay inside the plane till we (1) land. It's a bit cold outside, and if you walk on the (2) wings, it affects the flight pattern.
3. They should save themselves first. The employee said, “If you have (1) small children traveling with you, secure your mask (2) before assisting with theirs.”
4. The attendant implied that the captain was not landing smoothly.
5. The attendant said, “Anything left behind will be (1) distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses. Last one off the plane must (2) clean it.”

## Viewing and speaking Paragliding for a publishing deal

### Script and key

An Australian writer-and paraglider- tried (1) landing in front of Buckingham Palace last December to help him land a publishing deal.

In what looked like a scene from a James Bond movie, the paraglider, 36-year-old Brett de la Mare, was (2) followed through the skies of central London by a police helicopter as he (3) headed toward the palace-the London home of Queen Elizabeth II.

The royal family was not (4) present at the time, but police took the incident seriously, all the same. The helicopter tried to force the paraglider away, but in the end, he (5) succeeded in landing on the palace grounds. Police there promptly (6) arrested him. This was no terrorist, however, as police had feared. He was, rather, a writer trying to gain publicity to help (7) publish a book, called Canine Dawn. Unable to get publishers interested in the book, he tried some new ways to get (8) attention.

After the incident, de la Mare explained what (9) happened to reporters. "I came in over the fence, and I landed in the forecourt here, and the crowd started (10) cheering... and I was arrested and dragged off."

La Mare said police had difficulty deciding what to (11) charge him with: "They initially... they arrested me for attempted burglary of... Buckingham Palace... and of course, they (12) dropped that. I mean, attempted burglary! I mean, it's hardly a discreet method of burglary... "They later charged him with breaches of the Air Navigation Order. De la Mare left a (13) humorous message on his cell phone for callers: "Hi, this is Brett. I'm sorry you (14) missed me. I am incarcerated right now or something. Please leave me a message, and I'll (15) get back to you as soon as I am free. ha ha."