

Standing room on airplanes? A possibility!

One of the cost-cutting ideas from budget airlines is for passengers to stand. Michael Ryan, the CEO of Ryanair, was once seriously considering this option. Ryanair is one of Europe's biggest airlines. Mr. Ryan says his airline is so popular because it is so cheap. Most of Ryanair's flights are short connections to Europe. This makes the idea of standing for an hour or so on an airplane a bearable one. Ryan said that many people stand for over an hour on a train, so it should be no problem on an airplane. He told reporters he would even be prepared to offer flights for free to passengers who stood. He said he could squeeze in 50 per cent more people and cut costs by 20 per cent.

Michael Ryan has changed the way many people think about air travel. His focus is on cutting out unnecessary services and so reducing fares. One idea he is still thinking about is to ask passengers to pay one euro (around a dollar) to use the toilet. He said he could remove two toilets on the board of the airplane and put in extra seats. The extra revenue would reduce costs and therefore the price of airline tickets. He said that asking passengers to pay would encourage them to use the toilets at the airports. Ryan has also talked about a "fat tax" on overweight travelers. His standing room idea, however, might not take off. All airlines must stick to strict international safety standards. Everybody over the age of two must have a seat.



Ex.1 Match the words from the text with their synonyms:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. latest | a. thinking about |
| 2. considering | b. obese |
| 3. option | c. fit |
| 4. connections | d. guidelines |
| 5. squeeze | e. trias |
| 6. focus | f. most recent |
| 7. fares | g. income |
| 8. revenue | h. priority |
| 9. overweight | i. idea |
| 10. standards | j. ticket proces |

Ex.2 Complete these collocations with the missing words below:

airline / budget / room / safety / seats / services / travel / traveler

1. standing _____
2. _____ airlines
3. air _____
4. unnecessary _____
5. extra _____
6. _____ tickets
7. overweight _____
8. _____ standards

I know English idioms!

In this lesson's text we read about travelling. That's why it would be useful to mention this idiom:

- to travel light (= to bring very few things with you when you go somewhere)
- I like to carry my bags onto the plane so I try to travel light.

Phrasals, phrasals...

A sentence from the text reads: "His standing room idea, however, might not take off". The phrasal verb that it uses means in this context "to become popular". But the same verb may have another, more travel-related meaning: "to start" when talking about a plane.

- Our plane couldn't take off on time because of thick fog in the airport area.

Grammar corner

"All airlines must stick to strict international safety standards. Everybody over the age of two must have a seat." These two sentences from the text use very similar in meaning grammar structures: "all" and "every(body)". The difference between them is that "all" uses a plural verbs, while "every" singular.

Try and complete these sentences with "all" and "every" and an appropriate verb form:

1. _____ passengers (be) _____ angry because the flight was delayed.
2. _____ passenger (be) _____ angry because the flight was delayed.
3. The airline sold _____ the tickets although they (be) _____ not cheap at all.
4. _____ ticket that the airline sold for that flight (be) _____ rather expensive.

GLOSSARY	
standing room	miejsca stojące
possibility	możliwość
cost-cutting	cięcie kosztów
budget airline	budżetowa linia lotnicza
seriously	poważnie
consider	rozważać
connection	połączenie
bearable	znośny, do zniesienia
to squeeze	ścisnąć, wcisnąć
to cut out	wyciąć, tu: wyeliminować
unnecessary	zbędny
services	usługi
to reduce	obniżyć
fare	opłata za przejazd
to remove	usunąć
board	pokład
to put in	wstawić
extra	dodatkowy
revenue	przychód
therefore	stąd, dlatego
to encourage	zachęcić
fat tax	„podatek tłuszczowy”
overweight	nadwaga
travelers	podróżnik
to take off	przyjąć się
to stick to	trzymać się
strict	restrykcyjny
safety standards	standardy bezpieczeństwa
seat	siedzenie, miejsce siedzące

ANSWER KEY

Ex.1

1. F
2. A
3. I
4. E
5. C
6. H
7. J
8. G
9. B
10. D

Ex.2

1. standing room
2. budget airlines
3. air travel
4. unnecessary services
5. extra seats
6. airline tickets
7. overweight traveler
8. safety standards

Grammar corner

1. All passengers were angry because the flight was delayed.
2. Every passenger was angry because the flight was delayed.
3. The airline sold all the tickets although they were not cheap at all.
4. Every ticket that the airline sold for that flight was rather expensive.