

## What is happening to air travel?

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

Choose the correct answers in this air-travel quiz.

1. The first ever flight was in **1903 / 1913**.
2. The world's oldest airline is **Air France / KLM**.
3. The world's busiest airport is **JFK New York / Atlanta**.
4. London has **five / six** airports.
5. At 4,411 metres, the highest airport in the world is in **China / Bolivia**.
6. The longest non-stop flight is from Newark, USA to **Tokyo / Singapore**.

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

aviation

flight

runway

expand

turning point

quarantine

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a journey in a plane. (para 1)
2. If things \_\_\_\_\_, they become bigger. (para 2)
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the long road used by planes when they take off and land. (para 3)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is used to describe being connected with making or flying planes. (para 4)
5. If people \_\_\_\_\_, they have to stay away from other people because they might have a disease. (para 4)
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a time when an important change happens in a situation, especially one that makes it better. (para 4)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How much did a flight to Australia cost before the Second World War?
2. How long did the journey take?
3. What was the total number of air passengers in 2004?
4. How many flights were there per day around the world in April, 2019?
5. How many flights were there per day around the world in April, 2020?
6. For how many days do people have to quarantine in some countries?

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6 August, 2020

- 1 Before the Second World War, very few people were able to travel by air. Journeys were quite slow and very expensive. For example, the first flights from London to Australia cost more than £12,000 in today's money and took almost 12 days because the planes had to stop many times for fuel.
- 2 During the second half of the 20th century and the first years of the 21st century, air travel expanded rapidly. More and more people were able to fly, and the cost of flying fell dramatically. In 2004, the total number of passengers was just under two billion. By 2019, the total number of passengers was 4.5 billion. At the beginning of 2020, everything seemed normal with around 100,000 flights per day around the world. Then the coronavirus pandemic began.
- 3 As more and more countries closed their borders, airports closed and the number of people flying decreased rapidly. In April, 2019, for example, there were more than 110,000 flights per day around the world. In April, 2020, there were about 30,000 flights per day. At Heathrow Airport in London, the busiest airport in Europe, the number of passengers in June, 2020 fell by 95% compared to June, 2019. The airport normally uses two runways, one for take-offs and one for landings, but at the moment, it is only using one runway.
- 4 Another problem for the aviation industry is that many countries are asking passengers to quarantine for 14 days after arrival. This happened in the UK during June and July. But since 10 July, people who return to the UK from more than 50 countries, including France, Germany and Italy, do not have to quarantine. Perhaps this is a turning point and air travel will soon return to normal. The problem is that no one knows when the coronavirus pandemic will end.

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Before the Second World War, flights to Australia took a long time ...       | a. ... there were around 100,000 flights per day around the world. |
| 2. Air travel expanded rapidly ...  | b. ... no longer have to quarantine for 14 days after arrival.     |
| 3. Before the coronavirus pandemic began, ...                                   | c. ... fell by 95% compared with a year earlier.                   |
| 4. Since 10 July, passengers arriving in London from more than 50 countries ... | d. ... because planes had to stop many times for fuel.             |
| 5. In June, 2020, the number of passengers at Heathrow Airport in London ...    | e. ... no one knows when the coronavirus pandemic will end.        |
| 6. Air travel may never return to normal because ...                            | f. ... during the second half of the twentieth century.            |

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#### 5 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. expand      | a. pandemic     |
| 2. fall        | b. industry     |
| 3. coronavirus | c. rapidly      |
| 4. compared    | d. century      |
| 5. aviation    | e. to           |
| 6. twentieth   | f. dramatically |

#### 6 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their stress.

travel around	journey runway	expand return	today border
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A   o o	B   o o

#### 7 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

- more countries from than fifty
- hundred per one around day flights thousand
- second century during the twentieth of the half
- airport in the Europe busiest

#### 8 Discussion

If billions of people travel by air every year, is that a good thing for the world or not? Explain your answer.