

Day 1

Many people are very afraid of flying. Flying is actually very safe. Many flights take place every day. There are very few airplane accidents each year. There are policies meant to ensure that all passengers are safe. Pilots, the people who fly planes, must make sure that every trip they fly is safe. Pilots go through rigorous training involving lots of studying and practice. They have to know how airplanes work. Pilots must also know how to react in a variety of stressful situations. They know how important it is to do their job well. Airplane pilots know that the safety of everyone on board is their responsibility.

1. What does ensure mean?

a. make certain
b. approve
c. be behind
2. What does rigorous mean?

a. hurried
b. affordable
c. difficult
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about pilots?

a. Being a pilot can be difficult and stressful.
b. Pilots do not have to work hard when they are training.
c. Some pilots do not have to go through training.

Day 2

Air travel is taken very seriously. A number of things must take place before passengers board a plane. Workers inspect the plane by walking around the outside of it. Inside the plane, there are safety checks conducted on items like the smoke detectors and warning lights. People working in control towers make sure that there is no traffic that would make it unsafe for a plane to take off. Due to these safety measures, there are very few plane crashes. One plane that took off on January 15, 2009, went through those same safety measures. The pilot did everything he needed to do in order to make sure the plane was ready for flight. While he could control many things on the plane, what was in the air was out of his control.

1. What does conducted mean?

a. showed
b. ran
c. behaved
2. What does measures mean?

a. amounts
b. methods
c. problems
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What quote supports the statement that air travel is taken seriously?

a. "While he could control many things on the plane..."
b. "A number of things must take place before passengers board a plane."
c. "The pilot did everything he needed to do in order to make sure the plane..."

Day 3

A plane that was flying to Charlotte, North Carolina, left from LaGuardia Airport in New York City on January 15, 2009. The plane took off a little before 3:30 in the afternoon. Just minutes after takeoff, the plane collided with a flock of Canadian geese. Passengers and crew heard several loud sounds and then saw flames and smelled fuel. Both engines on the plane stopped working. There were two pilots on the plane. One of the pilots took control of the plane while the other tried to get the engines to function again. Officials on the ground told the pilots to return to the airport they had just left from, but the plane couldn't. Officials then told the pilots to head to New Jersey to land, but the pilots knew the plane could not make the trip.

1. What does collided mean?

a. fought

b. hit

c. flew
2. What does function mean?

a. work

b. repair

c. prevent
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about today's passage?

a. Most planes only have one pilot on them.

b. Birds can be dangerous to airplanes.

c. Planes are never allowed to make emergency landings.

Day 4

The pilots were aware that the plane could not go very far without working engines. They felt that the plane could not make it to any nearby airports. Their only option was to land in the nearby Hudson River. One of the pilots radioed in to let officials know of their plan. A pilot then cautioned everyone on the plane about the coming impact. Officials on the ground worked quickly to make sure any boats in the river were aware of the plan and to see if they would help with the rescue effort. The plane made a water landing in the Hudson River. The landing was bumpy, but there were no serious injuries. Everyone began to flee from the plane as soon as they could. The passengers used inflatable slides to exit from the sides of the plane.

1. What does cautioned mean?

a. weakened

b. praised

c. warned
2. What does flee mean?

a. free

b. escape

c. continue
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the main idea of today's passage?

a. The passengers exited from the sides of the plane.

b. The plane had to make a water landing on the Hudson River.

c. The plane could not fly far enough to land at any close airports.

Day 5

The pilot was able to guide the plane to a safe stop on the Hudson River. The passengers on the plane were not out of danger yet. Everyone on board the plane had to get off. The waters of the Hudson River were icy and the plane began to flood. Crewmembers quickly worked to help passengers off the plane. Some passengers waited on the wings of the plane. Many passengers waited on the rafts, but even those had cold water on them. One passenger tried to swim away because he was worried about an explosion. Luckily, there were boats nearby that quickly came to the rescue. Everyone was able to safely escape the plane around thirty minutes after the harrowing event began.

Some people were taken to the hospital but everyone survived. The event quickly made the news. Several security cameras caught it on camera. There were television specials and movies made about the flight. The pilots of the plane were praised for their quick thinking that saved so many lives. Passengers were later offered around \$5,000 compensation for their lost luggage. There was a study afterward to see what caused the engine failure. The study found proof that birds had struck the engines. Officials also did flight tests to see if the pilot made the right choice. Some tests showed the plane could have made it to an airport. It was finally decided that the pilots actually did make the best decision.

- 1. What does harrowing mean?
 - a. stressful
 - b. preparing
 - c. pleasant
- 2. What does compensation mean?
 - a. competition
 - b. demand
 - c. payment
- 3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
- 4. Write a summary of today's passage.
