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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/09/17

Ryanair cancels numerous flights

Recently, no frills airline Ryanair cut as many as 2,000 flights from its schedules. Ryanair has said this is due to its pilots and crew having to use up their annual holiday entitlement.

More than 400,000 passengers across Europe have been affected by the flight cancellations. Many passengers have been left stranded, broke and unable to get home. Ryanair has published a full list of affected flights that have been cancelled, which cover a six-week period.

The budget airline has offered full refunds for passengers affected by the cancelled flights. When the news first broke passengers received a text message, asking them to call a premium rate phone line, which left them more out of pocket.

Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary said, "It's not my biggest cock-up." He has refused to quit over the fiasco. O'Leary claims the pilots annual leave, strikes and air traffic delays has led to the flight cuts.

Low pay and bad working conditions for Ryanair staff (crew and pilots) are one of the more likely causes behind the current situation. Recently, 140 Ryanair pilots quit the budget airline to work for rival Norwegian Air. Whatever the real reason, it's an omnishambles for Ryanair.

Many passengers who have had flights cancelled have had to take evasive action, like cutting their holiday short, or cancelling it. Other passengers have had to rebook their flights with Ryanair or on other airlines, in order to get home.

Ryanair pilots have been offered a £12,000 bonus and first officers a £6,000 bonus, as part of Ryanair's attempts to help solve this crisis, which is of their own making. However, they won't receive these bonuses till the 1st November 2018. Should they decide to leave the company in between, they won't get it.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Ryanair. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.
- 6) What is the latest on this story?**

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the airlines.
- 2) What does 'omnishambles' mean?
- 3) What happens on the 1st November 2018?
- 4) What is one of the more likely causes of the dispute?
- 5) Who is Michael O'Leary?

Student B questions

- 1) How many flights have been cancelled?
- 2) How many passengers have been affected?
- 3) What have pilots and first officers been offered?
- 4) What did Michael O'Leary say?
- 5) What did the passengers do?

Category: Travel / Airlines / Ryanair
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about 'Ryanair'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three budget airlines you know of. Which is best? Why? Have you flown on any of them? Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING - THINKING

Think of three advantages and three disadvantages of flying with Ryanair. Discuss together.

SPEAKING – RADIO INTERVIEW

In pairs – *Student A* is a journalist. *Student B* is a passenger on Ryanair. You have just discovered that the flight you are returning home on is cancelled. How will you get back home? You have little money left. The next flight is in 3 days. Where will you stay now? Where will you rebook your flight? Etc. *Student A* is talking to *Student B*. *3 mins*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever flown on Ryanair? If yes, when and where to?
- 3) Do you think Ryanair will lose customers when this flight cancellation fiasco is over?
- 4) Should Ryanair improve the pay for its staff?
- 5) Would you like to work for Ryanair? Why? Why not?
- 6) Why have these flight cancellations happened?
- 7) What advice would you give Michael O'Leary?
- 8) What advice would you give the Ryanair passengers affected by the imposed flight cancellations?
- 9) Why do people fly Ryanair?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Ryanair cancels numerous flights.*

- 1) Michael O'Leary.
- 2) An airline passenger, who Ryanair flight was cancelled 1 hour ahead of boarding.
- 3) A travel journalist.
- 4) A Ryanair passenger, who has just discovered their flight has been cancelled in 4 weeks' time.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING – GAME - RYANAIR

In a circle as a class – "I flew on Ryanair recently and I saw..." Repeat what was previously said, and then add one more thing. Forget any and you are eliminated! *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 5-10 minutes – As a class.

Budget airlines – Where is good to fly to and why? When? Best day to fly?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What alternatives are there to Ryanair?
- 3) Should Ryanair improve its working conditions for staff?
- 4) Is Norwegian Air a threat to Ryanair?
- 5) What are the budget airlines like in your neck of the woods?
- 6) Should Ryanair passengers, whose flights have been cancelled, get additional compensation from the airline for other costs incurred, as a result of the flight cancellations?
- 7) Should Ryanair pilots be required to give up their holiday to fill the gap in Ryanair's flight schedules, or should the airline recruit more pilots?
- 8) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Ryanair cancels numerous flights

Recently, (1)___ airline Ryanair cut as many as 2,000 flights from its (2)__. Ryanair has said this is due to its pilots and crew having to use up their annual holiday (3)__.

More than 400,000 passengers across Europe have been affected by the flight cancellations. Many (4)___ have been left stranded, broke and unable to get home. Ryanair has published a full list of affected flights that have been cancelled, which cover a six-week period.

The (5)___ airline has offered full (6)___ for passengers affected by the cancelled flights. When the news first broke passengers received a text message, asking them to call a premium rate phone line, which left them more out of pocket.

Ryanair boss Michael O’Leary said, “It’s not my biggest (7)___.” He has refused to (8)___ over the fiasco. O’Leary claims the pilots annual leave, strikes and air traffic delays has led to the flight cuts.

Quit / passengers / cock-up / refunds / entitlement / schedules / no frills / budget

Low pay and bad working (1)___ for Ryanair staff (crew and pilots) are one of the more likely causes behind the current situation. Recently, 140 Ryanair pilots (2)___ the budget airline to work for rival Norwegian Air. Whatever the real reason, it’s an (3)___ for Ryanair.

Many passengers who have had flights cancelled have had to take (4)___ action, like cutting their holiday short, or cancelling it. Other passengers have had to rebook their flights with Ryanair or on other airlines, in order to get home. Ryanair (5)___ have been offered a £12,000 (6)___ and first officers a £6,000 bonus, as part of Ryanair’s attempts to help solve this (7)___, which is of their own making. However, they won’t receive these (8)___ till the 1st November 2018. Should they decide to leave the company in between, they won’t get it.

omnishambles / crisis / evasive / conditions / bonuses / bonus / pilots / quit

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Ryanair cancels numerous flights

Recently, no frills airline Ryanair cut as (1)___ as 2,000 flights from its schedules. Ryanair has said (2)___ is due to its pilots and crew having to use up (3)___ annual holiday entitlement.

More (4)___ 400,000 passengers across Europe have been affected by the flight cancellations. Many passengers have been left stranded, broke and unable to get home. Ryanair has published a full list of affected flights that have been cancelled, which cover a six-week period.

The budget airline has offered full refunds for passengers affected by the cancelled flights. (5)___ the news first broke passengers received a text message, asking (6)___ to call a premium rate phone line, (7)___ left them (8)___ out of pocket.

Ryanair boss Michael O’Leary said, “It’s not my biggest cock-up.” He has refused to quit over the fiasco. O’Leary claims the pilots annual leave, strikes and air traffic delays has led to the flight cuts.

which / more / many / when / their / than / them / this

Low pay and bad working conditions for Ryanair staff (crew and pilots) are one of the more likely causes behind the current situation. Recently, 140 Ryanair pilots quit the budget airline to work (1)___ rival Norwegian Air. Whatever the real reason, it’s an omnishambles for Ryanair.

Many passengers (2)___ have had flights cancelled have had to take evasive action, like cutting their holiday short, or cancelling it. Other passengers have had to rebook their flights with Ryanair (3)___ (4)___ other airlines, in order to get home. Ryanair pilots have been offered a £12,000 bonus and first officers a £6,000 bonus, (5)___ part of Ryanair’s attempts to help solve this crisis, which is (6)___ their own making. However, they won’t receive these bonuses till the 1st November 2018. Should they decide to leave the company (7)___ between, they won’t get (8)___.

for / who / or / as / of / it / in / on

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Ryanair cancels numerous flights

Recently, _____ Ryanair cut as many as 2,000 flights from its schedules. Ryanair has said this is due to its pilots and crew having to use up their annual holiday entitlement. More than 400,000 passengers across Europe have been affected by the _____. Many passengers have been left stranded, broke and unable to get home. Ryanair has published a full list of affected flights that have been cancelled, which cover a six-week period.

_____ has offered full refunds for passengers affected by the cancelled flights. When the news first broke passengers received a text message, asking them to call a premium rate phone line, which left them _____. Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary said, "It's not my biggest cock-up." He has refused to quit over the fiasco. O'Leary claims the pilots annual leave, strikes _____ has led to the flight cuts.

Low pay and _____ for Ryanair staff (crew and pilots) are one of the more likely causes behind the current situation. Recently, 140 Ryanair pilots quit the

budget airline to work for rival Norwegian Air. Whatever the real reason, it's _____ Ryanair. Many passengers who have had flights cancelled have had to take evasive action, like _____ short, or cancelling it. Other passengers have had to rebook their flights with Ryanair or on other airlines, _____.

Ryanair pilots have been offered a £12,000 bonus and first officers a £6,000 bonus, as part of Ryanair's attempts to help solve this crisis, which is of their own making. However, they won't receive these bonuses till the 1st November 2018. _____ to leave the company in between, they won't get it.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs/As a class, list 10 likes and dislikes about Ryanair. Why? Talk about them. Talk about each of them. *Five minutes.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Ryanair _____
- 2) Passengers _____
- 3) Pilots _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *Ryanair cancels numerous flights.* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: *Ryanair cancels numerous flights.*

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) passengers
- 2) premium
- 3) budget
- 4) omnishambles
- 5) quit
- 6) schedules
- 7) entitlement
- 8) cancelations
- 9) unable
- 10) refunds

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) evasive
- 12) bonus
- 13) Ryanair
- 14) receive
- 15) should
- 16) due
- 17) cancelled
- 18) text
- 19) fiasco
- 20) premium

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