

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine

Today, let's talk about the terrible Malaysian Airways disaster that happened on the 17th July 2014. The Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 was shot down in Ukraine near the Russian border as it travelled from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

The Boeing 777-200 aircraft exploded into flames at 33,000ft as it was hit by a sophisticated surface-to-air-missile over territory near Donetsk held by pro-Russian rebels. Dutch authorities said 298 people were on board the flight; including 173 Dutch, 9 Britons, and 27 Australians. Up to 100 passengers on board were headed for an international AIDS conference in Melbourne.

Russian President Vladimir Putin blamed Ukrainians for not having 'peace' in the land but he didn't deny that pro-Kremlin separatist's brought down the flight. U.S. Senator John McCain said there would be 'Hell to pay' if Russia was found to be involved.

The Ukrainian president called it terrorism and released a recording between a fighter they claimed was a Russian Intelligence Officer and a separatist who apparently shot down the plane and admitted it was 'civilian'. The Ukrainian Interior Ministry said the plane was shot down by a Russian-made BUK surface to surface missile.

The Ukrainian security services intercepted two phone conversations in which pro-Russian separatist's appear to admit to shooting down Flight MH17 saying, "They shouldn't be f*****g flying. There is a war going on".

There were many questions as to why the plane was flying over Ukrainian airspace in what is effectively a war zone. Following the disaster all airlines immediately rerouted their flights outside of Ukraine*

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 that was recently shot down. 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.

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 airline and flight no.
- 2) How many people were killed?
- 3) Where was Flight MH17 travelling to and from?
- 4) Name the Russian president.
- 5) Name the US senator.

Student B questions

- 1) Following the disaster all airlines did what?
- 2) The plane was shot down by what?
- 3) Who brought down the plane?
- 4) What type of plane was it?
- 5) How high was the plane when it was hit?

*(see www.flightradar24.com).

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine - 25th July 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Malaysian Airways Flight MH17**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Choose three things from the article. Write them below. Discuss together.

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

Add three other things in the space below on what you know about this disaster. **What is the latest on this story?** Discuss together.

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

On the board / In pairs – List three other air major crashes/disasters. Name the airlines. What were the causes of the crash? Where and when did they happen? Discuss together. *5 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to hear their findings.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Will the conflict in South East Ukraine now escalate?
- 3) What is the world's reaction to this tragedy?
- 4) What does John McCain mean when he said 'there would be 'Hell to pay' if Russia was found to be involved'?
- 5) What have the Ukrainian government said about this tragedy?
- 6) What has your government said about this terrible tragedy?
- 7) Why were airlines flying over a warzone?
- 8) What were you doing when you first heard about this tragedy?
- 9) Who was to blame for this disaster?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. You are one of the following four guests or are the interviewer. You are in the *CNN TV studio.* Today's interview is: *Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine.* *10 mins.*

- 1) A Russian government spokesperson.
- 2) A US government spokesperson.
- 3) A pro-Kremlin Russian separatist.
- 4) A journalist who reported on the tragedy.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - in front of the class. Student A and Student B are both reporters. One of you is at Amsterdam Airport, the other is in the ground at the crash site near Donetsk in South East Ukraine. Prepare some notes of the crash and then report to the class what you see. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine.

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you book a flight on Malaysian Airways?
- 3) Do you think there will be some good flight deals following this disaster?
- 4) Where is the Black Box and what does it tell us?
- 5) What is the latest on this story?
- 6) What has the Malaysian and Dutch governments said?
- 7) What has the American President and government said about this tragedy?
- 8) What has the Russian President said about this tragedy?
- 9) What have the separatist's in South East Ukraine said about this disaster?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine - 25th July 2014

GAP FILL: READING

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine

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The Boeing 777-200 aircraft exploded into (2)___ at 33,000ft as it was hit by a sophisticated surface-to-air-missile over (3)___ near Donetsk held by pro-Russian rebels. Dutch (4)___ said 298 people were on board the (5)___; including 173 Dutch, 9 Britons, and 27 Australians. Up to 100 passengers on board were headed for an international AIDS (6)___ in Melbourne.

Russian President Vladimir Putin blamed Ukrainians for not having 'peace' in the land but he didn't (7)___ that pro-Kremlin (8)___ brought down the flight. U.S. Senator John McCain said there would be 'Hell to pay' if Russia was found to be involved.

flight / authorities / conference / terrible / flames / territory / deny / separatist's

The Ukrainian president called it (1)___ and released a recording between a fighter they claimed was a Russian Intelligence Officer and a separatist who apparently shot down the plane and admitted it was '(2)___'. The Ukrainian Interior Ministry said the (3)___ was shot down by a Russian-made BUK surface to surface (4)___.

The Ukrainian security services intercepted two phone conversations in which pro-Russian separatist's appear to (5)___ to shooting down Flight MH17 saying, "They shouldn't be f*****g flying. There is a war going on".

There were many questions as to why the plane was flying over Ukrainian airspace in what is (6)___ a war zone. Following the disaster all airlines (7)___ (8)___ their flights outside of Ukraine*

effectively / rerouted / civilian / plane / admit / terrorism / missile / immediately

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

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The Boeing 777-200 aircraft exploded (2)___ flames at 33,000ft as it was hit by a sophisticated surface-to-air-missile (3)___ territory near Donetsk held by pro-Russian rebels. Dutch authorities said 298 people were on board the flight; including 173 Dutch, 9 Britons, and 27 Australians. Up to 100 passengers on board were headed for an international AIDS conference in Melbourne.

Russian President Vladimir Putin blamed Ukrainians (4)___ not having 'peace' in the land (5)___ he didn't deny (6)___ pro-Kremlin separatist's brought down the flight. U.S. Senator John McCain said (7)___ (8)___ be 'Hell to pay' if Russia was found to be involved.

but / for / that / into / from / over / would / there /

The Ukrainian president called (1)___ terrorism and released a recording between a fighter they claimed was a Russian Intelligence Officer and a separatist (2)___ apparently shot down the plane and admitted it was 'civilian'. The Ukrainian Interior Ministry said the plane was shot down (3)___ a Russian-made BUK surface to surface missile.

The Ukrainian security services intercepted two phone conversations in which pro-Russian separatist's appear to admit to shooting down Flight MH17 saying, "They shouldn't be f*****g flying. There is a war going (4)___".

There were many questions (5)___ to why the plane was flying over Ukrainian airspace (6)___ what is effectively (7)___ war zone. Following the disaster all airlines immediately rerouted their flights outside (8)___ Ukraine*

of / in / on / by / it / as / a / who

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine - 25th July 2014

GAP FILL: LISTENING

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down **10 things what you know about the pro-Russian separatist conflict in South East Ukraine**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

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

- 1) The plane _____
- 2) The separatist's _____
- 3) The Ukrainian's _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) terrible
- 2) flames
- 3) territory
- 4) authorities
- 5) flight
- 6) conference
- 7) deny
- 8) separatist's

SPELLING

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

- 1) terrible
- 2) Malaysian
- 3) Disaster
- 4) Amsterdam
- 5) Kuala Lumpur
- 6) sophisticated
- 7) missile
- 8) territory
- 9) passengers
- 10) conference

ANSWERS

- 1) terrorism
- 2) civilian
- 3) plane
- 4) missile
- 5) admit
- 6) effectively
- 7) immediately
- 8) rerouted

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) peace
- 12) separatist's
- 13) terrorism
- 14) apparently
- 15) civilian
- 16) conversations
- 17) airspace
- 18) immediately
- 19) Ukraine
- 20) apparently

Malaysian Airways Flight MH17 shot down over Ukraine - *25th July 2014*