

The Future of Flying

1 Warm Up

Do you enjoy flying?

2 Language Building

These expressions are in the reading passage below. Can you match the two halves?

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| a gourmet | seat |
| a flatbed | disaster |
| bone | website |
| a natural | china |
| terrorist | meal |
| a comparison | action |



3 Reading

Read the text and fill in the blanks from the list below.

When were you last on a plane? Was it an ¹..... experience? For those of us who are not lucky enough to travel business or first class, travelling by plane can be an ordeal. The advertising is glossy – flatbed seats, lots of legroom, and gourmet meals served on bone china. The reality is often very different: cramped seating, no legroom, and unappetizing, bland food in foil containers.

1
5

The reason, of course, for the economy class experience is cost. Customers are much less loyal to a particular airline than a generation ago, and many people use comparison websites in order to find the cheapest flights. In recent years, so-called ‘budget airlines’ have achieved ²..... growth, which has had a knock-on effect on more established players. The airline industry is also very unpredictable, with recession, natural disasters and possible terrorist action affecting the bottom line.

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Industry analysts are predicting a number of changes to the airline market over the coming years. Commercial supersonic flight, which ended when Concorde withdrew from service in 2003, looks set to return in the next fifteen to twenty years. The plan is for commercial aircraft to fly much higher than at present, reducing the journey from London to Australia to less than two hours. The sonic boom (which has always been the ³..... of supersonic flight) would be reduced by improved airplane design.

15

It is likely that flying economy class will always be an ordeal. However, it looks like the ⁴..... of thirteen-hour flights across the globe will soon be a thing of the past.

20

Missing Words: **spectacular | bane | era | enjoyable**

4 Comprehension Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

1. Does the writer give a positive impression of economy class travel?
2. How do many people find cheaper tickets?
3. According to the article, how will flying change in the future?

5 Vocabulary Building Fill in the spaces with a suitable collocation.

NATURAL DISASTERS

A THING OF THE PAST

GLOSSY ADVERTISING

LUCKY ENOUGH

THE COMING YEARS

THE BOTTOM LINE

1. I think the Internet will become even more important in
2. The weather has a major effect on for ice-cream producers.
3. I bought the exercise bike because of the It's terrible! I want to send it back!
4. can be very expensive for insurance companies.
5. George is to live by the beach. He goes surfing every day in the summer.
6. Most cars today run on petrol. In the future, petrol-cars will probably be

6 Your Turn Choose one of these topics to talk about:

cars

communications

space travel

jobs

How do you think it will change in the coming years?

- Work with a partner and makes notes.
- Prepare to share your ideas with the class.

7 Discussion Work with a partner or in groups. Ask follow-up questions.

- Do you think that we will be traveling at supersonic speeds soon?
- Is it worth paying extra money to travel business or first class?
- Do you think your national airline is good?
- The article talks about comparison websites. Do you compare prices online?
- What big changes do you think will happen in your lifetime?
- Your ideas!

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Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Reading, Vocabulary and Discussion
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Upper-Intermediate to Advanced
Time:	One hour +
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

- 1 The first exercise introduces the topic. Students can work in pairs. Don't spend too long here. There are discussion topics at the end of the worksheet.
- 2 Students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the group. You could either go through the meanings at this point, or wait until after the reading.
- 3 Students can read the passage and fill in the blanks with a word from the list beneath the text. Have students check their answers with a partner. Go through the answers with the group. You could take the opportunity to answer any pressing vocabulary queries.
- 4 Students can work in pairs asking and answering the questions. Go through the answers with the group.
- 5 Students can again work in pairs. Go through the answers with the group.
- 6 Have students discuss the topics and make notes. Monitor, and then elicit feedback from the class
- 7 To maximize student talking time, it's best to put students in pairs, or small groups. Assign new pairs, if possible. While the students are speaking, monitor the conversations, but try not to interrupt. When the discussion comes to a close, elicit some suggestions for each problem.

The answer key is on the next page.

Answer key (Other answers may be possible.)

- ②
- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| a gourmet | meal |
| a flatbed | seat |
| bone | china |
| a natural | disaster |
| terrorist | action |
| a comparison | website |

- ③
1. enjoyable 2. spectacular 3. bane 4. era

- ④
1. No. The writer describes it as having cramped seating, no legroom and bland food.
 2. They find cheaper tickets through comparison websites.
 3. Planes will fly higher and at greater speeds.

- ⑤
1. I think the Internet will become even more important in the coming years.
 2. The weather has a major effect on the bottom line for ice-cream producers.
 3. I bought the exercise bike because of the glossy advertising. It's terrible! I want to send it back!
 4. Natural disasters can be very expensive for insurance companies.
 5. George is lucky enough to live by the beach. He goes surfing every day in the summer.
 6. Most cars today run on petrol. In the future, petrol-cars will probably be a thing of the past.

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