

- **afford** = have enough money
- **alert** = watchful, awake; to be prepared
- **although** = while
- **assist** = help
- **brief** = inform; to give instructions
- **budget airlines** = airlines that can fly with less costs than other bigger airlines; tickets are usually cheaper, but pilots and crew do not get paid so much
- **calculate** = work out
- **calm** = cool, quiet, not chaotic
- **commercial airplane** = an airplane that you fly for an airline; it transports passengers from one city to another
- **compete** = fight
- **complete** = total
- **crew** = the people who work on an airplane
- **cut** = reduce, lower
- **decide** = choose
- **decision** = choice you make after you think about something
- **face** = to be confronted with, deal with
- **fiercely** = brutally, intensely
- **flight path** = route
- **form** = document
- **fuel** = kerosene that a plane uses to fly
- **ground station** = the place on the ground that controls the flight and gives instructions to the pilot
- **jet lag** = when you get tired after you have been flying for a very long time
- **long distance** = to travel over thousands of kilometres, usually from one continent to another
- **on average** = normally, usually
- **paperwork** = writing papers and reports of your flight; it's not really interesting but it has to be done
- **passenger** = a person on a plane
- **pause** = break
- **prestigious** = if people admire you and think very highly of you and your job
- **remain** = stay
- **responsible** = to have the job of looking after someone or something
- **share** = part
- **suffer** = to be ill
- **take over** = control
- **takeoff** = when an airplane starts

The job of a pilot is difficult and risky, but **prestigious**. Airline pilots often travel thousands of kilometers and can find themselves in a different time and climate zones every day. They see all parts of the world and get to know new people almost all the time. But a pilot also **faces** problems. They often **suffer** from **jet lag** and can become tired when flying through different time zones. They spend many days away from home and their families.

Although many people think it is a real dream job pilots must be **responsible** people because they have the lives of up to a few hundred **passengers** in their hands. They have to have hundreds of hours of training before they can do their job. Pilots must **remain calm** in dangerous situations and always have to make the right **decisions**. They need to see and hear perfectly. About 60 % of all pilots fly **commercial airplanes**, the rest fly **cargo** and private planes, as well as air force planes.

There are many things that a pilot must do before he or she flies a plane. They must **check out** weather **conditions** on the **flight path** and around the landing area. They also have to check flight plans, fill in **forms** and do a lot of **paperwork**. Before **takeoff** pilots **brief** their **crew** and do a **complete** check of the airplane to see if everything works the way it should. Pilots must **calculate** how much **fuel** they have to take with them.



Delta Airlines pilots in a cockpit

In most cases there are two or three pilots in the cockpit. The captain is **responsible** for the flight. He is always in the left seat of the cockpit. The co-pilot sits next to him and **assists** him. Some planes have a flight engineer as a third person in the cockpit.

Although the autopilot almost always **takes over** flying the plane once it is in the air, a pilot and his **crew** must **remain alert** during the whole flight. They must have contact with the **ground stations** at all times and report strange or unusual things.

After landing safely pilots and crew may get a few days of rest if they are on a **long distance** flight, or they may have to fly back to where they came from after a short **pause**. **On average** pilots spend about 70 to 100 hours a month in the air.

Many people believe that pilots earn a lot of money. While that is true for larger airlines, smaller **budget airlines** cannot **afford** to pay their pilots that much. In today's world airlines are **competing fiercely** for their **shares** of the market. Pilots may lose their jobs if airlines **decide** to **cut** costs.

1. Answer the following questions in your own words!

Name a few advantages a commercial airline pilot has: _____

What kind of training must pilots have? _____

What must they do before takeoff? _____

Who sits next to the captain in the cabin? _____

Who else may be in the cockpit? _____

How many hours are pilots up in the air on average every month? _____

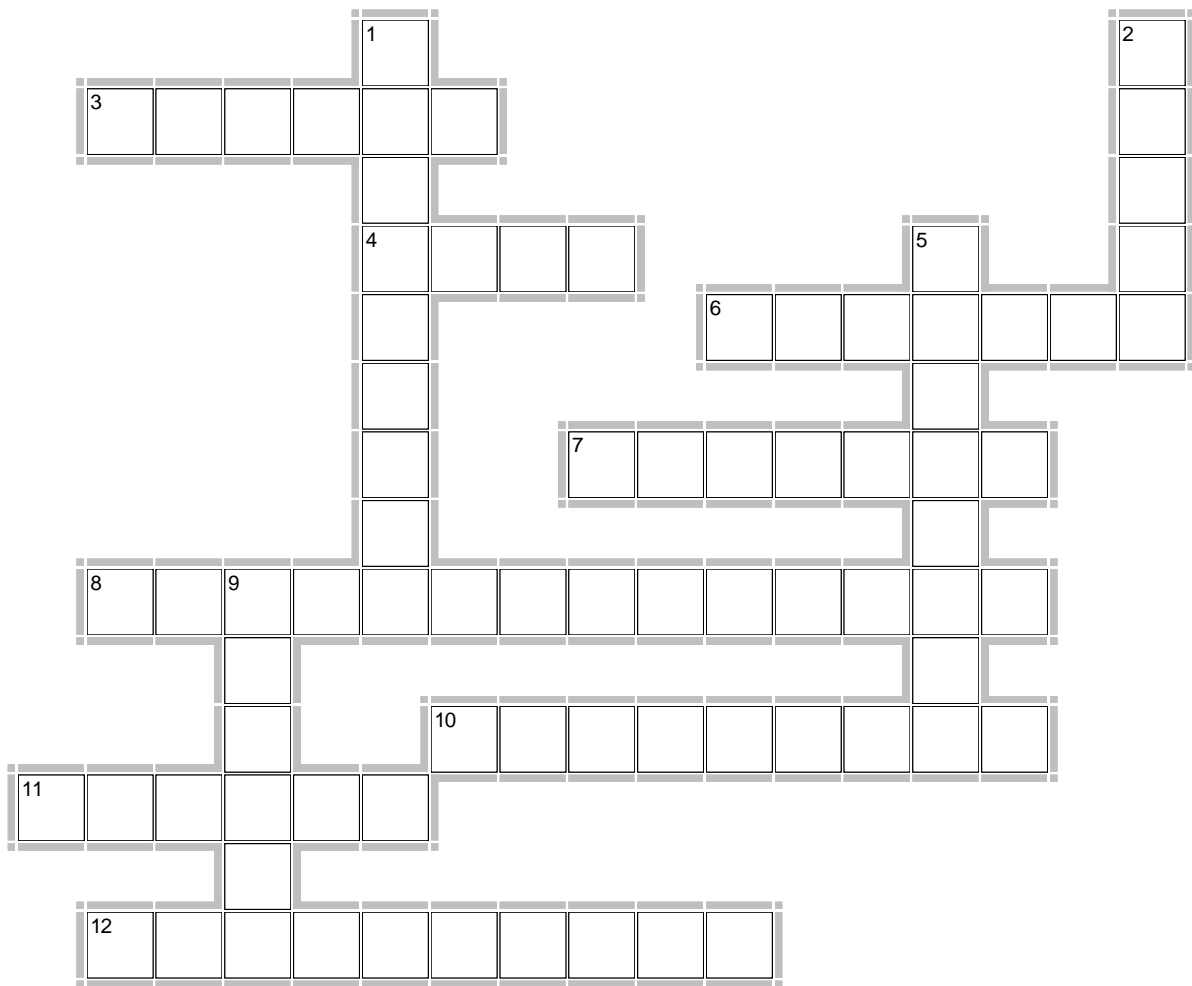
What are the problems that pilots of budget airlines face? _____

2. Check off the things that pilots have to do

<input type="checkbox"/>	bring newspapers to the plane
<input type="checkbox"/>	always have contact to ground control stations
<input type="checkbox"/>	calculate how much fuel they must take with them
<input type="checkbox"/>	check and see if the tires of the wheels are OK.
<input type="checkbox"/>	make coffee in the cabin
<input type="checkbox"/>	clean the passenger cabin before takeoff
<input type="checkbox"/>	make decisions quickly
<input type="checkbox"/>	always fly with the autopilot on
<input type="checkbox"/>	fly cargo planes when they are not flying passenger planes

<input type="checkbox"/>	remain awake during the flight
<input type="checkbox"/>	do a lot of paper work
<input type="checkbox"/>	check out weather conditions in the landing area
<input type="checkbox"/>	bring the baggage to the terminal
<input type="checkbox"/>	bring all the maps they have with them on the plane
<input type="checkbox"/>	remain calm in dangerous situations
<input type="checkbox"/>	check and see if all passengers are on board
<input type="checkbox"/>	have contact with flight attendants on board the plane
<input type="checkbox"/>	report strange things that they see in the sky

3. Crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

- 3. when you get tired after you have flown through many different time zones
- 4. the people who work on an airplane
- 6. when a plane starts its trip
- 7. person sitting next to the captain in the cockpit
- 8. airlines that have less costs and can offer cheaper tickets to their passengers
- 10. person who travels by plane
- 11. help
- 12. to admire someone or think very highly of him or her /adjective

Down

- 1. to work out how much you need of something
- 2. to give instructions before a flight takes off
- 5. the fuel that airplanes use
- 9. choose

Key

Check off the things that pilots have to do

	bring newspapers to the plane
✓	always have contact to ground control stations
✓	calculate how much fuel they must take with them
✓	check and see if the tires of the wheels are OK.
	make coffee in the cabin
	clean the passenger cabin before takeoff
✓	make decisions quickly
	always fly with the autopilot on
	fly cargo planes when they are not flying passenger planes

✓	remain awake during the flight
	do a lot of paper work
	check out weather conditions in the landing area
	bring the baggage to the terminal
	bring all the maps they have with them on the plane
✓	remain calm in dangerous situations
	check and see if all passengers are on board
✓	have contact with flight attendants on board the plane
✓	report strange things that they see in the sky

Crossword

