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U.S. air traffic controllers asleep on the job

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:
http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

17th April, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

Airport authorities in the USA are looking into the way their air traffic controllers work. This comes after they found another controller asleep in the control tower. This is the seventh time this year. The Federal Aviation Administration said there was a problem with fatigue among controllers. There has been a sharp rise in the number of flights, which means more workers have to work night shifts. This situation leads to pilots coming in to land without guidance from a controller.

The Associated Press news agency reported that napping on the midnight shift is an open secret. "It has always been a problem," said Rick Perl, a former air traffic controller trainer. "There is no way you can get off at 2 pm in the afternoon and be back at 10 pm at night and get decent sleep," he said. An aviation spokesperson said: "We are taking important steps today that will make a real difference in fighting air traffic controller fatigue. But we know we will need to do more. This is just the beginning."

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Airport authorities | a. land |
| 2. they found another controller | b. in the USA |
| 3. This is the seventh | c. among controllers |
| 4. a problem with fatigue | d. asleep |
| 5. a sharp rise in the | e. time this year |
| 6. pilots coming in to | f. number of flights |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. napping on the | a. need to do more |
| 2. It has always been | b. at 2 pm |
| 3. an open | c. the beginning |
| 4. get off | d. midnight shift |
| 5. we know we will | e. secret |
| 6. This is just | f. a problem |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

Airport authorities in the USA are looking _____
air traffic controllers work. This _____ found
another controller asleep in the control tower. This is the seventh
time this year. The Federal Aviation Administration said there was
a _____ among controllers. There has been a
_____ number of flights, which means more
workers have to _____. This situation leads to
pilots _____ without guidance from a controller.

The Associated Press news agency reported that napping on the
midnight shift _____. "It has always been a
problem," said Rick Perl, _____ traffic controller
trainer. "There _____ get off at 2 pm in the
afternoon and be back at 10 pm at night and
_____, " he said. An aviation spokesperson said:
"We are taking important steps today _____ real
difference in fighting air traffic controller fatigue. But we know we
will need to do more. _____ beginning."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

Airport authorities in the USA are (1) _____ into the way their air traffic controllers work. This (2) _____ after they found another controller asleep in the control tower. This is the seventh time this year. The Federal Aviation Administration said there was a problem (3) _____ fatigue among controllers. There has been a (4) _____ rise in the number of flights, which means more workers have to (5) _____ night shifts. This situation leads to pilots coming in to (6) _____ without guidance from a controller.

The Associated Press news agency reported that (7) _____ on the midnight shift is an (8) _____ secret. "It has always been a problem," said Rick Perl, a former air traffic controller trainer. "There is no (9) _____ you can get off at 2 pm in the afternoon and be back at 10 pm at night and (10) _____ decent sleep," he said. An aviation spokesperson said: "We are taking important steps today that will make a (11) _____ difference in (12) _____ air traffic controller fatigue. But we know we will need to do more. This is just the beginning."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) looked | (b) look | (c) looking |
| 2. | (a) comes | (b) goes | (c) leaves |
| 3. | (a) by | (b) with | (c) at |
| 4. | (a) blunt | (b) sharp | (c) cut |
| 5. | (a) fly | (b) traffic | (c) work |
| 6. | (a) land | (b) fly | (c) sky |
| 7. | (a) nap | (b) napping | (c) napped |
| 8. | (a) open | (b) closed | (c) always |
| 9. | (a) how | (b) way | (c) work |
| 10. | (a) sleep | (b) bed | (c) get |
| 11. | (a) real | (b) really | (c) reality |
| 12. | (a) fight | (b) fights | (c) fighting |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. Airport ettosuihar
2. the control twoer
3. the esvtnhe time this year
4. a problem with ieauftg
5. a psarh rise
6. lpstio coming in to land

Paragraph 2

7. news gacyne
8. the mdinhgit shift
9. a freomr air traffic controller
10. An vniatiao spokesperson
11. make a real dfcfrenee
12. just the nneigbgi

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The Associated Press news agency reported that napping on the midnight
- () trainer. "There is no way you can get off at 2 pm in the afternoon and be back at 10 pm
- () work. This comes after they found another controller asleep in the control tower. This is the
- () flights, which means more workers have to work night shifts. This situation leads to pilots
- () coming in to land without guidance from a controller.
- () among controllers. There has been a sharp rise in the number of
- () seventh time this year. The Federal Aviation Administration said there was a problem with fatigue
- () air traffic controller fatigue. But we know we will need to do more. This is just the beginning."
- () at night and get decent sleep," he said. An aviation spokesperson said: "We are taking
- () important steps today that will make a real difference in fighting
- () shift is an open secret. "It has always been a problem," said Rick Perl, a former air traffic controller
- (**1**) Airport authorities in the USA are looking into the way their air traffic controllers

WORD JUMBLE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1104/110417-air_traffic_controllers.html

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. air their way The work controllers traffic.

2. asleep controller another found They.

3. problem with There fatigue was among a controllers.

4. sharp of rise flights in the A number.

5. coming Pilots guidance without land to in.

6. an the is secret on shift open Napping midnight.

7. former traffic trainer A air controller.

8. Be sleep decent get and night at pm 10 at back.

9. We taking steps are important today.

10. we more will need We to know do.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. AIRPLANES: Search the Internet and find more information about airplanes. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about airplanes. Include imaginary interviews with air traffic controllers and airplane passengers. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to an air traffic controller. Ask him/her three questions about his/her job. Give him/her three of your opinions on increasing safety. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.