

“British English ESL/EFL Lesson plans for English Language Teachers Worldwide direct from Central Europe”

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt!

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Ideas and Articles by David Robinson	

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Category: Economic / Central Europe / Sky Europe
Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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THE ARTICLE

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt!

Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt. After struggling for months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. The airline that existed for 7 years has had ongoing financial problems. It is yet another casualty of the economic recession that has seen other low cost carriers recently slash routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from its hub bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been banned from Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. It faced a similar ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating licence as a result of the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes impounded in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment of airport fees.

Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe suspends its operations." It added: "We regret for the inconvenience that have been caused to you." The airline has been struggling for some time. In July though it said it had found an investor. It blamed the economic crisis for its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. The webpage advised its passengers that those of them that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. Flights costing less than this are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa debit card can also receive a refund. However, a loophole may see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked via a travel agency and were issued a paper ticket or e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered your flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, you should discuss the matter with them first."

ABTA spokesperson Sean Tipton in the UK warned passengers that after previous airline bankruptcies other airlines had put up prices as soon as they had seen an increased demand for tickets to and from certain destinations. In Slovakia travel agencies were hit by the collapse. Meanwhile a new Slovak based airline Danube Wings stepped in offering to assist stranded passengers in Italy, France & Great Britain to return home. The new airline will also pick up the air traffic between the Slovak capital Bratislava and its second city Kosice - having set up the route in March

this year.

Another popular budget airline Wizz Air offered alternative flights to stranded Sky Europe passengers. Budapest airport would replace those Sky Europe flights from Vienna and Bratislava. Wizz Air already fly's into Prague. At the beginning of July it said it was ready to take over Sky Europe's air routes. They have ordered another 50 planes to add to their existing 25 plane fleet. These will be phased in over the next few years. According to Bloomberg Ryanair and EasyJet may also increase their flights to Central Europe. They should seriously consider it, as Sky Europe noticeably increased independently Bratislava's air traffic from 500,000 people a year to around 2m in 3 years with no Slovak government help. A figure that would have no doubt remained around 700,000 without them. Meanwhile until someone steps in the Slovak air market has for the moment been left up in the air (or should that read on the tarmac!).

Note: ABTA = Association of British Travel Agents

Links: <http://www.skyeurope.com/en/home.aspx>

[http://wizzair.com/default.asp?slid=clear&language=EN&error404=\\$v?404](http://wizzair.com/default.asp?slid=clear&language=EN&error404=$v?404);<http://www.wizzair.com:80/index.shtml>

<http://www.easyjet.com/>

<http://www.ryanair.com/site/EN/>

LET'S START

1. Sky Europe: What 3 things do you know about the budget airline Sky Europe? What 3 things do you know about budget airlines? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read between 4 to 6 lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self correct your work from page 2 - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than 5 is very good. 10 are acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than 20 - we need to do some work!

3. Reading: Get students to read the passage aloud. Swap readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students look through the article. Underline/highlight any vocabulary you do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through & explain any words or phrases you do not understand.

5. The article: Students look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about Sky Europe?
- c) *Will you be flying / Have you flown* on a budget airline this year?
- d) What is the future for low cost airlines?

6. Let's tell a story! Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt:

Below are 20 words and phrases from the article. Use them to compile a story about Sky Europe finally going bankrupt. (Imagine!) Add 2 words of your own. Tell your story to your partner. (*Maybe tick off your words as you tell it*)

1	debts	11	Vienna airport
2	passengers	12	hub
3	stranded	13	bankrupt
4	Wizz Air	14	licence
5	website	15	flights
6	Paris	16	economic crisis
7	assist	17	up in the air
8	air routes	18	destinations
9	Sky Europe	19	Danube Wings
10	non-payment	20	credit card

Your choice 1 _____ Your choice 2 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's debate: In pairs. Students A think Sky Europe was good. Students B think otherwise. (You might have to imagine on this exercise!) Explain why.

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt (V2) – 10th September 2009

8. Let's write! A business e-mail: Write and send a business e-mail to your teacher about 6 economic reasons Wizz Air (or another budget airline) should take over Sky Europe's air routes. Bullet point them. (You might need to use the internet) Your e-mail can be read out in class.

9. Let's explain! Pros & cons of budget airlines: Think of 3 advantages and 3 disadvantages of budget airlines. Write them below. Using these words/phrases tell your partner why.

Advantages		Disadvantages	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	

The teacher will choose some pairs to hear their results.

10. Article quiz: With your partner or in small groups: (1 point for each correct answer. Lose _ point if you look at the article for help!)

Student A

- 1) What cities are mentioned?
- 2) Name the airlines.
- 3) What does left up in the air mean?
- 4) What did Sky Europe's webpage say?
- 5) What happens if you booked your ticket by credit card?
- 6) What happens if you book your ticket via a travel agency?
- 7) What does ABTA stand for?

Student B

- 1) What happened in Paris?
- 2) What happened at the beginning of September?
- 3) What happened in Vienna?
- 4) What are Wizz Air doing?
- 5) How many people used Bratislava airport when Sky Europe was operating at its best?
- 6) In Slovakia who were hit by the collapse?
- 7) The collapse left what?

11. Let's talk! Flight information counter: In pairs: One of you is at London Luton airport. You walk in to the check in area where to your horror you discover Sky Europe has gone bust today! You are not happy! What to do? How will you get home / to your flight destination? The Sky Europe information desk and all Sky Europe check in desks are deserted! You decide to ask someone at another airline operator's information desk what the hell is going on? Can they help you get home? The latest etc... Choose a Ryanair, EasyJet or Wizz Air flight information desk for assistance. (**Note:** This exercise is based on what actually happened to one passenger at London's Luton Airport. It was only the following day the person noticed there was actually someone at the Sky Europe information desk) 5-10 minutes

12. Let's think! Sky Europe: Swap partners. With your new partner on the board write as many words to do with 'Sky Europe' as you can. One-two minutes. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

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13. Let's compile! Sentences: Choose six/nine of the words from no 12. Write two/three sentences using two/three words in each. Underline your chosen words. The teacher will if necessary correct your work. Students might be asked to read their sentences aloud.

14. Let's think! 10 things about budget airlines: Think of 10 things you know about budget airlines? Write them below. Then tell your partner about your findings. (You may need to use the internet on this) What is the most unusual thing? What is the most obvious? What does it tell you?

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

15. Let's draw an airplane! Draw a picture of the outside of an airplane. Consider its shape! What type of plane will you draw? Label your picture clearly with the following 8 items...Add 2 features of your own. The class can vote for the best picture!

1	the main wings	5	the tail and the fin
2	landing wheels/gear	6	the turbojet engines
3	fuselage (body of plane!)	7	the windows
4	the cockpit	8	lights
Your choice 1 _____		Your choice 2 _____	

16. Let's draw the inside of an airplane! Draw a picture of the inside of an airplane. Label your picture clearly with the following 8 items...Add 2 features of your own. The class can vote for the best picture!

1	emergency exits	5	seats
2	drinks trolley	6	the galley
3	toilets	7	the windows
4	the cockpit	8	overhead luggage storage
Your choice 1 _____		Your choice 2 _____	

17. Let's chat! Frantic phone call! In pairs: One of you is at an airport about to check in when to your horror you discover you *cant get home / go on holiday* due to Sky Europe having just gone bankrupt. They have suspended all operations. You decide to ring one of your friends or family to tell them the news. You are unsure quite what to do! Ask the person you phone for advice or news about Sky Europe going bankrupt. The person at the other end of the phone should assist you and ask questions etc...5-10 minutes

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18. A typical day at an airport: In pairs. Look at the list below. Each person chooses to be one of the following. Think of 5 things that person might do or see during a typical day at an airport. (Imagine!) Create a short story about it. Tell it to your partner. Try to make it interesting, funny, the problems, the experiences, the weather, etc...

1 Check-in person	4 Toilet cleaner
2 Holiday maker	5 Pilot
3 Flight information person	6 Security person

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

19. Let's be economic! The economic issues of Sky Europe & budget airlines today: Look at the below. Fill in the list below then compare and discuss with your partner. What are your findings? What are your conclusions?

Economic advantages Sky Europe had 1 _____ 2 _____	Economic disadvantages Sky Europe had 1 _____ 2 _____
Economic issues budget airlines face today 1 _____ 2 _____	How budget airlines can overcome the downturn 1 _____ 2 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

20. Sentence starters: Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) Sky Europe _____
- b) Central European airlines _____
- c) Wizz air _____
- d) The economic crisis _____
- e) Flights _____

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: After reading the article guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| a. Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt | T / F |
| b. Sky Europe existed for 9 years | T / F |
| c. Sky Europe saw its fleet demise from 16 to 6 last year | T / F |
| d. Sky Europe ticket holders will all get a refund of £100 | T / F |
| e. Sky Europe went bankrupt at the beginning of August | T / F |
| f. Wizz Air has taken over Sky Europe's air routes | T / F |
| g. Ryanair and EasyJet have opened new routes to Central Europe | T / F |
| h. Bratislava airport increased air traffic to 3m thanks to Sky Europe | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Low cost | Disruption |
| b. Bankrupt | Continuing |
| c. Finally | Hold |
| d. Ongoing | Evasion |
| e. Nearby | Money back |
| f. Impound | Instantaneously |
| g. Inconvenience | Insolvent / out of business |
| h. Refund | Close |
| i. Loophole | Eventually |
| j. Immediately | Budget |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| a. Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky | August the airline shifted its flights |
| b. After struggling for months | hub bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna |
| c. The airline that existed for 7 years has | stranded abroad. |
| d. It is yet another casualty of | non-payment of debts |
| e. The collapse left thousands of passengers | impounded in Paris and Bulgaria |
| f. The airline that flew across Europe from its | the economic recession |
| g. airports banned Sky Europe planes over | its operating licence |
| h. Having been banned from Vienna Airport in | Europe has finally gone bankrupt. |
| i. A day later Slovakia revoked | had ongoing financial problems |
| j. Previously Sky Europe had had planes | it finally admitted defeat |

GAP FILL: READING

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt!

Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone _____. After struggling for months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. The airline that existed for 7 years has had ongoing _____ problems. It is yet another casualty of the economic _____ that has seen other low cost carriers recently _____ routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from its _____ bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been _____ from Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. It faced a similar ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating _____ as a result of the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes _____ in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment of airport fees.

Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe _____ its operations." It added: "We regret for the _____ that have been caused to you." The airline has been struggling for some time. In July though it said it had found an _____. It blamed the economic _____ for its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. The _____ advised its passengers that those of them that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. _____ costing less than this are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa _____ can also receive a _____. However, a loophole may see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked via a travel agency and were issued a paper ticket or e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered your flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, you should discuss the matter with them first."

impounded

recession

hub

bankrupt

banned

slash

licence

financial

inconvenience

refund

webpage

crisis

suspends

investor

debit card

flights

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt!

Ailing low cost _____ Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt. After struggling for months it finally _____ the beginning of September. The airline that existed for 7 years has had ongoing financial problems. It is yet another casualty of the economic recession that has seen other _____ recently slash routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from its hub bases in Prague, _____ ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been banned from Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. _____ ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating licence _____ bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes impounded in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment of airport fees.

Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe suspends its operations." It added: "We regret for the inconvenience _____ to you." The airline has been struggling for some time. In July though it said it had found an investor. It blamed the _____ its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. _____ its passengers that those of them that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. Flights costing _____ not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa debit card can also receive a refund. However, a loophole may see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked _____ and were issued a paper ticket or e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered your flight tickets _____ or organiser, you should discuss the matter with them first."

DISCUSSION

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

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Have you ever flown on Sky Europe? If yes, when and where?
- c. Why do you think Sky Europe went bankrupt?
- d. Have you ever flown on a low cost carrier?
- e. Have you ever been delayed at an airport? If yes, when and where?
- f. Has the recession hit your business? If yes, how?
- g. Have you ever missed your flight? If yes, when and why?
- h. Are you worried about budget airlines slashing routes? If yes, why?
- i. Would you like to fly to one of Central Europe's capital cities for a holiday?
- j. Should Central European governments have stepped in to bail out Sky Europe?



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

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. What do you think of ticketless tickets?
- c. Have you ever booked a ticket online?
- d. What do you think of booking things online?
- e. What is your worst experience whilst flying?
- f. Name 2 places you have flown to.
- g. What do you think of low cost airlines?
- h. Do you know any other companies that have recently gone bankrupt because of the recession?
- i. Are you worried about losing your job?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's brainstorm! Airlines:

Allow 10-20 minutes

Small groups

In small groups brainstorm some ideas about airlines. Choose a spokesperson who can present your ideas to the class at the end of your preparation. Present it visually or use the board etc... Try to be imaginative! *10-20 minutes.*

	Your ideas
1) 5 famous airlines	1 2 3 4 5
2) 5 budget airlines	1 2 3 4 5
4) 5 expensive airlines	1 2 3 4 5
5) The top 5 airlines (you might need to look at the internet for this)	1 2 3 4 5
6) 5 bankrupt airlines	1 2 3 4 5
7) 5 films or stories that feature airlines in them	1 2 3 4 5

The teacher can moderate the session.

PUT THE ARTICLE BACK TOGETHER

Put the article back together

- () ongoing financial problems. It is yet another casualty of the economic recession that has seen other low cost carriers recently slash routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline
- () the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes impounded in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment of airport fees. Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe suspends its operations." It added: "We regret for the
- () 15 to 5 last year. The webpage advised its passengers that those of them that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. Flights costing less than this
- () Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. It faced a similar ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating licence as a result of
- (1) Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt. After struggling for months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. The airline that existed for 7 years has had
- () are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa debit card can also receive a refund. However, a loophole may see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked via a travel agency and were issued a paper
- () that flew across Europe from its hub bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been banned from Vienna
- () inconvenience that have been caused to you." The airline has been struggling for some time. In July though it said it had found an investor. It blamed the economic crisis for its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from
- () ticket or e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered your flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, you should discuss the matter with them first."

LANGUAGE: Choose the correct words from a–d below and write them in the article.

(1)___ low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt. After (2)___ for months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. The airline that existed for 7 years has had ongoing financial problems. It is (3)___ another casualty of the economic recession that has seen other low (4)___ carriers recently (5)___ routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from its (6)___ bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been banned from Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. It faced a similar ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating licence as a result of the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes impounded in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment of airport fees.

Sky Europe’s website simply said: “Sky Europe suspends its operations.” It added: “We regret for the inconvenience that have been caused to you.” The airline has been struggling for some time. In July though it said it had found an investor. It blamed the economic crisis for its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. The webpage advised its passengers that those of them that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card (7)___, who will refund purchases over £100. Flights costing less than this are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa debit card can also receive a refund. However, a (8)___ may see late booking passengers out of pocket. (9)___ who booked via a travel agency and were issued a paper ticket or e-ticket immediately or (10)___ 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe’s website said: “If you have ordered your flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, you should discuss the (11)___ with them (12)___.”

1.	(a)	hailing	(b)	ailing	(c)	sailing	(d)	tailing
2.	(a)	struggling	(b)	struggle	(c)	struggled	(d)	struggles
3.	(a)	get	(b)	bet	(c)	met	(d)	yet
4.	(a)	cost	(b)	most	(c)	post	(d)	lost
5.	(a)	stash	(b)	slash	(c)	slats	(d)	slaps
6.	(a)	dub	(b)	tub	(c)	hub	(d)	rub
7.	(a)	providing	(b)	provide	(c)	provides	(d)	provider
8.	(a)	poop hole	(b)	loophole	(c)	loopholes	(d)	pothole
9.	(a)	anything	(b)	anybody	(c)	any more	(d)	anyone
10.	(a)	wither	(b)	with	(c)	within	(d)	without
11.	(a)	patter	(b)	natter	(c)	matter	(d)	tatter
12.	(a)	first	(b)	second	(c)	third	(d)	fourth

GRAMMAR 1: MIDWAY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt!

Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt. After struggling for months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. The airline (1)___ existed for 7 years has had ongoing financial problems. It is (2)___ (3)___ casualty of the economic recession that has seen (4)___ low cost carriers recently slash routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from its hub bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading (5)___ airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been banned (6)___ Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. It faced a similar ban at Prague airport (7)___ regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating licence as a result of the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes impounded in Paris and Bulgaria (8)___ non payment of airport fees.

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Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe suspends its operations." It added: "We regret for the inconvenience that have been caused to you." The airline has been struggling for some time. In July (1)___ it said it had found an investor. It blamed the economic crisis for its demise (2)___ saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. The webpage advised its passengers that (3)___ of (4)___ that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. Flights costing less than this are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa debit card can also receive a refund. (5)___, a loophole may see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked via a travel agency and were issued a paper ticket or e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered (6)___ flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, you (7)___ discuss the matter (8)___ them first."

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GRAMMAR 2: EASY

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt!

Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone bankrupt. After struggling (1)___ months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. (2)___ airline that existed for 7 years has had ongoing financial problems. It is yet another casualty of the economic recession that has seen other low cost carriers recently slash routes (3)___ jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from (4)___ hub bases (5)___ Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts (6)___ the beginning of September. Having been banned from Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. (7)___ faced a similar ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating licence as a result of the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes impounded in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment (8)___ airport fees.

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Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe suspends (1)___ operations." It added: "We regret for the inconvenience that have been caused to you." The airline has been struggling (2)___ some time. In July though it said it had found an investor. It blamed the economic crisis for its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. The webpage advised its passengers that those of them that had booked (3)___ credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. Flights costing less than (4)___ are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa debit card can also receive a refund. However, a loophole (5)___ see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked via a travel agency (6)___ were issued a paper ticket (7)___ e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered your flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, (8)___ should discuss the matter with them first."

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | defeat | 11 | destination |
| 2 | struggling | 12 | collapse |
| 3 | demise | 13 | traffic |
| 4 | bankruptcy | 14 | alternative |
| 5 | immediately | 15 | beginning |
| 6 | licence | 16 | government |
| 7 | stranded | 17 | beginning |
| 8 | previously | 18 | seriously |
| 9 | loophole | 19 | noticeably |
| 10 | spokesperson | 20 | casualty |

Your score: Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20

HOMEWORK

Newspaper article: Write an article on “**Sky Europe**”. (Minimum 200 words) Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

WRITING: In class:

Five-minute article: Write an article on “**Sky Europe**”. You have five minutes. The teacher will select some students to read out their work.

Countdown: Every minute the teacher may say, “You have xx minutes left”.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T b. F c. F d. F e. F f. F g. F h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Low cost | Budget |
| b. Bankrupt | Insolvent / out of business |
| c. Finally | Eventually |
| d. Ongoing | Continuing |
| e. Nearby | Close |
| f. Impound | Hold |
| g. Inconvenience | Disruption |
| h. Refund | Money back |
| i. Loophole | Evasion |
| j. Immediately | Instantaneously |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| a. Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky | Europe has finally gone bankrupt. |
| b. After struggling for months | it finally admitted defeat |
| c. The airline that existed for 7 years has | had ongoing financial problems |
| d. It is yet another casualty of | the economic recession |
| e. The collapse left thousands of passengers | stranded abroad. |
| f. The airline that flew across Europe from its | hub bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna |
| g. airports banned Sky Europe planes over | non-payment of debts |
| h. Having been banned from Vienna Airport in | August the airline shifted its flights |
| i. A day later Slovakia revoked | its operating licence |
| j. Previously Sky Europe had had planes | impounded in Paris and Bulgaria |

GAP FILL: Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt! Ailing low cost Central European airline Sky Europe has finally gone **bankrupt**. After struggling for months it finally admitted defeat at the beginning of September. The airline that existed for 7 years has had ongoing **financial** problems. It is yet another casualty of the economic **recession** that has seen other low cost carriers recently **slash** routes and jobs. The collapse left thousands of passengers stranded abroad. The airline that flew across Europe from its **hub** bases in Prague, Bratislava and Vienna ceased trading after airports banned Sky Europe planes over non-payment of debts at the beginning of September. Having been **banned** from Vienna Airport in August the airline shifted its flights to nearby Bratislava in Slovakia. It faced a similar ban at Prague airport unless regular payments were made. A day later Slovakia revoked its operating **licence** as a result of the bankruptcy. Previously Sky Europe had had planes **impounded** in Paris and Bulgaria over non payment of airport fees.

Sky Europe's website simply said: "Sky Europe **suspends** its operations." It added: "We regret for the **inconvenience** that have been caused to you." The airline has been struggling for some time. In July though it said it had found an **investor**. It blamed the economic **crisis** for its demise that saw its aircraft reduce from 15 to 5 last year. The **webpage** advised its passengers that those of them that had booked by credit card could seek a refund from their card provider, who will refund purchases over £100. **Flights** costing less than this are not covered. Passengers who booked using a Visa **debit card** can also receive a **refund**. However, a loophole may see late booking passengers out of pocket. Anyone who booked via a travel agency and were issued a paper ticket or e-ticket immediately or within 24 hours are not covered. Sky Europe's website said: "If you have ordered your flight tickets via a travel agency or organiser, you should discuss the matter with them first."

LANGUAGE WORK:

- 1 - b 2 - a 3 - d 4 - a 5 - b 6 - c 7 - d 8 - b 9 - d 10 - c 11 - c 12 - a

Sky Europe finally goes bankrupt (V2) – 10th September 2009