

Airbus to end production of A380 airplane

16th February, 2019



The airplane maker Airbus has announced plans to cease production of its A380 aircraft. The iconic A380 is the world's largest passenger airplane and has been in service for

12 years. When it was launched, it was heralded as the future of aviation. However, changes in the demands of passengers mean the days of giant, four-engine passenger planes are over. Airbus decided to call a halt to production of the 544-seat A380 due to weaker than expected sales. The nail in the coffin was when the Dubai-based Emirates Airline cut its A380 order by 39 planes. Airbus said it would stop building the A380 in 2021. This will result in significant job losses at companies linked to the plane's manufacture.

The A380 embarked on its inaugural flight in April 2005 to great fanfare. Then British Prime Minister Tony Blair called the giant jet a "symbol of economic strength". His Spanish counterpart called the plane "the realization of a dream". The plane was designed to combat congestion at airports by reducing the number of planes needed in the skies. However, booming air travel has generated a higher demand for twin-engine planes that can fly non-stop to where people want to travel. Giant, four-engine jets usually require passengers to transit at hub airports. An Emirates spokesperson said the A380 was a "passenger magnet" that was misunderstood and badly marketed by other airlines.

Sources: reuters.com / wsj.com / cnn.com

Writing

Flying is the best way to travel. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airplane / plans / production / passenger / future / aviation / nails / sales / job losses / flight / fanfare / economic strength / dream / congestion / air travel / transit / magnet

True / False

- a) The A380 airplane is the world's biggest passenger airplane. T / F
- b) The Airbus A380 has been flying for over 20 years. T / F
- c) Production of A380s is stopping because of falling demand. T / F
- d) Airbus will stop making the A380 in 2021. T / F
- e) There was a funfair next to the A380 when it first launched. T / F
- f) A Spanish leader suggested the A380 was like a dream come true. T / F
- g) There is a higher demand for 4-engine planes than twin-engine planes. T / F
- h) Airbus said ending the A380 will not result in job losses. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. announced | a. flight |
| 2. cease | b. strong |
| 3. aviation | c. serious |
| 4. expected | d. peer |
| 5. significant | e. stop |
| 6. inaugural | f. overcrowding |
| 7. counterpart | g. made public |
| 8. congestion | h. change |
| 9. booming | i. hoped for |
| 10. transit | j. first |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of flying?
- b) Is it better to fly in a small or giant airplane?
- c) What are the best things about flying?
- d) What are the worst things about flying?
- e) How sad is it that Airbus will stop making this airplane?
- f) Do you have a favourite airplane?
- g) What will airplanes be like in the future?
- h) What do you think of the name Airbus?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. plans to cease production | a. aviation |
| 2. in service | b. stop |
| 3. heralded as the future of | c. expected sales |
| 4. due to weaker than | d. congestion at airports |
| 5. This will result in significant | e. of its A380 aircraft |
| 6. The A380 embarked on its | f. strength |
| 7. a symbol of economic | g. at hub airports |
| 8. The plane was designed to combat | h. job losses |
| 9. twin-engine planes that can fly non- | i. inaugural flight |
| 10. require passengers to transit | j. for 12 years |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why did things go wrong for the Airbus A380?
- How can we make airports better?
- Are twin-engine or four-engine planes better?
- How can airlines be more environmentally-friendly?
- What do you think of long-haul flights?
- Why do you think airlines misunderstood the A380?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of Airbus?

Spelling

- plans to caees production
- The ocnici A380
- the future of naiatvoi
- energapss planes
- weaker than pxcdetee sales
- nisfagitcn job losses
- a ymsblo of economic strength
- designed to tbmcoa congestion
- generated a higher dndame
- twin-ninege planes
- tintsra at hub airports
- badly adtmeerk by other airlines

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. c	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Airplane

You think an airplane is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bicycle, helicopter or horse.

Role B – Bicycle

You think a bicycle is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): airplane, helicopter or horse.

Role C – Helicopter

You think a helicopter is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bicycle, airplane or horse.

Role D – Horse

You think a horse is the best way to travel. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): bicycle, helicopter or airplane.

Speaking – Travel

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of traveling at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| • motorbike | • airplane |
| • helicopter | • bicycle |
| • train | • car |
| • Segway | • horse |

Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.