

Daredevil nonstop solo flight (Tue 1 Mar)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about daredevils / adventure / excitement / world records / danger / hot air balloon / ...Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

AIRPLANE BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'airplane'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

SOLO: Which of the following would you prefer to do solo, or with someone else:

- a. Travel around the world for a year.
- b. Live in the jungle for six months.
- c. Walk across Africa.
- d. Attend a live concert of your favorite pop/rock star and attend the party at his/her hotel room after.
- e. Start your own company.
- f. Climb Mount Everest.
- g. Go to the dentist.
- h. Be a photojournalist in Iraq for a month.
- i. Go shopping with \$1,000,000 in cash.
- j. Study for an important exam.

DAREDEVIL ME: Talk to your partner/group about some of the exciting (daredevil) things you have done in your life - exaggerating a little (lot) is OK:

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'take' and 'off'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Someone is going to fly around the world alone. T / F
- b. No one has ever flown nonstop around the world in a single engine airplane. T / F
- c. The pilot, Steve Fossett, will need to refuel three times. T / F
- d. He will fly at a height three times greater than a commercial passenger jet. T / F
- e. His journey is relatively risk free. T / F
- f. Fatigue is a danger during his 66-hour record-breaking attempt. T / F
- g. He cannot fly over China or Libya. T / F
- h. He was the first person to circle the Earth nonstop in a hot air balloon. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) daredevil | height |
| (b) solo | earth |
| (c) millionaire | undertaking |
| (d) circle | craving |
| (e) globe | adventurer |
| (f) altitude | tycoon |
| (g) mission | goal |
| (h) fatigue | circumnavigate |
| (i) quest | unaided |
| (j) passion | exhaustion |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| (a) took | mission |
| (b) fly | high as an average commercial airliner |
| (c) dangerous | to danger |
| (d) circle | temperatures |
| (e) an altitude of | off |
| (f) almost twice as | balloon |
| (g) dangers | the globe |
| (h) such low | involved |
| (i) He is no stranger | solo around the world |
| (j) hot air | 16,000 metres |

GAP FILL

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BNE: Daredevil Steve Fossett's attempt _____ today to become the first person to fly solo around the world in a single engine airplane without refueling has been delayed by wind. The 60-year old millionaire was due to depart after breakfast from Salina Airport in Kansas. He was to embark on a dangerous _____ to circle the globe at an altitude of 16,000 metres, almost _____ as high as an average commercial airliner. His Global Flyer airplane is sponsored by that other thrill seeker, Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Atlantic. There are many _____ involved with Fossett's mission, perhaps the biggest being the possibility of his jet fuel freezing at such _____ temperatures. Another may be _____ – he has to stay awake and make life-or-death decisions for 66 hours on the 37,000-kilometre journey. He has been helped in his quest by China and Libya opening their _____ space to allow him to fly the most direct, and least fuel-consuming route. He is no stranger to danger or world-beating achievements. He has a _____ for breaking aviation records, most famously his nonstop circling of the globe in a hot air balloon in 2002.

dangers earlier low fatigue mission passion twice air

DISCUSSION:

- a. What do you think of this article?
- b. Are you a daredevil?
- c. When was the last time you tried something dangerous?
- d. Would you like to try what Steve Fossett is doing?
- e. Do you prefer to do things with other people or alone?
- f. What one adventure would you most like to take?
- g. Would you like to learn to fly a plane?
- h. Why do people risk their lives doing crazy things?
- i. Would you do (have you done) bungee jumping or sky diving?
- j. How do you get your thrills?
- k. If you could break a world record, what would it be?
- l. Where would you like to fly over in a hot air balloon?
- m. Do you have a passion or craving for something?
- n. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCAB 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. LETTER:** Write a letter to a Steve Fossett wishing him good luck on his mission .
- 3. MY DAREDEVIL MISSION:** Make a plan for your own daredevil mission.

FULL TEXT

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BNE: Daredevil Steve Fossett's attempt **earlier** today to become the first person to fly solo around the world in a single engine airplane without refueling has been delayed by wind. The 60-year old millionaire was due to depart after breakfast from Salina Airport in Kansas. He was to embark on a dangerous **mission** to circle the globe at an altitude of 16,000 metres, almost **twice** as high as an average commercial airliner. His Global Flyer airplane is sponsored by that other thrill seeker, Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Atlantic. There are many **dangers** involved with Fossett's mission, perhaps the biggest being the possibility of his jet fuel freezing at such **low** temperatures. Another may be **fatigue** – he has to stay awake and make life-or-death decisions for 66 hours on the 37,000-kilometre journey. He has been helped in his quest by China and Libya opening their **air** space to allow him to fly the most direct, and least fuel-consuming route. He is no stranger to danger or world-beating achievements. He has a **passion** for breaking aviation records, most famously his nonstop circling of the globe in a hot air balloon in 2002.