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Fly-for-free fake pilot arrested

25th September, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

Italian police have arrested a 32-year-old man who used a fake identity to try to get to fly in the cockpit of a plane at Turin airport. The unemployed Italian was apprehended at the check-in counter while trying to board an Air Dolomiti flight as the third pilot. The airline is part of Germany's national carrier Lufthansa. Police have yet to name the man, but he was operating under the assumed name of Andrea Sirlo. He was wearing a pilot's uniform and was carrying forged identity cards that claimed he was a qualified aviator. Police searched his bag and found more pilot uniforms as well as fake resumes, airline badges and an airport staff parking permit. He has been charged with a breach of airport security and impersonation.

Investigators have discovered that "Mr Sirlo" has successfully pulled off his scam at least once before. Police said: "On at least one occasion in 2012, he posed as a pilot of a foreign commercial airline, and with a fake name succeeded in flying as the third pilot in the cockpit." A search of MyFlightBook.com, a website that tracks flight details, also shows that a pilot named Andrea Sirlo flew from Munich airport to Turin on 23 October, 2011. Sirlo said he was inspired by the 2002 Leonardo DiCaprio movie "Catch Me If You Can". In the film, DiCaprio plays a real-life con artist who flew over one million miles on over 250 flights in the 1960s. "I saw that film and I wanted to be like [that guy]," Sirlo reportedly told police.

WARM-UPS

1. PILOTS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about pilots. Change partners often. Share your findings with your first partner.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

arrested / fake identity / cockpit / check-in counter / uniform / impersonation / discovered / scam / pull off / flight details / airport / inspired / con artist / movie

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. FAKE: What are the pros and cons? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
Pilot ID		
iPad		
Picasso		
University degree		
Rolex watch		
Driving license		

4. FORGERY: Students A **strongly** believe forgeries will soon be a thing of the past because of technology; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. FAKE: Which would be the scariest fakes? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the scariest at the top. Change partners often.

- pilot
- surgeon
- politician
- teacher
- chef
- boyfriend / girlfriend
- car mechanic
- police officer

6. AIRPORT: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'airport'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

1. TRUE / FALSE:

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Italian police arrested a pilot who was giving away free airline tickets. | T / F |
| b. The man is employed by Turin airport as a security guard. | T / F |
| c. Police have not revealed the name of the fake pilot. | T / F |
| d. The man was found with a bag of pilot clothes and false documents. | T / F |
| e. Police said this is the first time the man has attempted such a scam. | T / F |
| f. A website showed the guy flew as a fake pilot over 10 times last year. | T / F |
| g. The guy took his inspiration from a movie about a real-life fake pilot. | T / F |
| h. A real-life con artist flew over a million miles impersonating a pilot. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. arrested | a. false |
| 2. identity | b. follows |
| 3. assumed | c. violation |
| 4. permit (noun) | d. fraud |
| 5. breach | e. ID |
| 6. scam | f. pretended to be |
| 7. posed as | g. motivated |
| 8. tracks (verb) | h. pass |
| 9. inspired | i. fraudster |
| 10. con artist | j. detained |

3. PHRASE MATCH:

(Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a 32-year-old man who used | a. parking permit |
| 2. the cockpit | b. airport security |
| 3. part of Germany's national | c. off his scam |
| 4. an airport staff | d. artist |
| 5. a breach of | e. carrier Lufthansa |
| 6. successfully pulled | f. a fake identity |
| 7. he posed | g. flight details |
| 8. a website that tracks | h. of a plane |
| 9. a real-life con | i. on over 250 flights |
| 10. one million miles | j. as a pilot |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Italian police have arrested a 32-year-old man who used a (1) _____ identity to try to get to fly in the (2) _____ of a plane at Turin airport. The unemployed Italian was apprehended at the check-in counter while trying to (3) _____ an Air Dolomiti flight as the third pilot. The airline is part of Germany's national carrier Lufthansa. Police have yet to name the man, but he was (4) _____ under the assumed name of Andrea Sirlo. He was wearing a pilot's uniform and was carrying forged (5) _____ cards that claimed he was a qualified (6) _____. Police searched his bag and found more pilot uniforms as well as fake resumes, airline badges and an airport staff parking (7) _____. He has been charged with a (8) _____ of airport security and impersonation.

aviator
operating
cockpit
breach
fake
permit
board
identity

Investigators have discovered that "Mr Sirlo" has successfully (9) _____ off his scam at least once before. Police said: "On at least one occasion in 2012, he (10) _____ as a pilot of a foreign commercial airline, and with a fake name (11) _____ in flying as the third pilot in the cockpit." A search of MyFlightBook.com, a website that (12) _____ flight details, also shows that a pilot named Andrea Sirlo flew from Munich airport to Turin on 23 October, 2011. Sirlo said he was (13) _____ by the 2002 Leonardo DiCaprio movie "Catch Me If You Can". In the film, DiCaprio plays a real-life (14) _____ artist who flew over one million miles on over 250 (15) _____ in the 1960s. "I saw that film and I wanted to be like [that guy]," Sirlo (16) _____ told police.

tracks
con
posed
flights
pulled
inspired
reportedly
succeeded

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

Italian police have arrested a 32-year-old man who (1) _____ to try to get to fly in the cockpit of a plane at Turin airport. The unemployed Italian was apprehended at the check-in counter while (2) _____ an Air Dolomiti flight as the third pilot. The airline is part of Germany's national carrier Lufthansa. Police (3) _____ the man, but he was operating under the assumed name of Andrea Sirlo. He was wearing a pilot's uniform and (4) _____ identity cards that claimed he was a qualified aviator. Police searched his bag and found more pilot uniforms as well (5) _____, airline badges and an airport staff parking permit. He has been charged (6) _____ of airport security and impersonation.

Investigators have discovered that "Mr Sirlo" has successfully (7) _____ at least once before. Police said: "On at least one occasion in 2012, (8) _____ pilot of a foreign commercial airline, and with a fake name succeeded in flying as the third pilot in the cockpit." A search of MyFlightBook.com, a website (9) _____ details, also shows that a pilot named Andrea Sirlo flew from Munich airport to Turin on 23 October, 2011. Sirlo said (10) _____ the 2002 Leonardo DiCaprio movie "Catch Me If You Can". In the film, DiCaprio plays a real-life (11) _____ over one million miles on over 250 flights in the 1960s. "I saw that film and I wanted to be like [that guy]," Sirlo (12) _____.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'fake' and 'identity'.

fake	identity
-------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arrested• unemployed• part• carrying• badges• security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pulled• least• search• inspired• artist• reportedly
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PILOTS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

Write five GOOD questions about pilots in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

PILOTS DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'pilot'?
- c) What do you think of pilots?
- d) Do you think being a pilot is a good job?
- e) Are you surprised a fake pilot could get into a plane's cockpit?
- f) Should airlines or airports be fined if impersonators get on planes with fake IDs?
- g) What do you think of pilots' uniforms?
- h) How easy or difficult do you think it is to breach airport security?
- i) What punishment should the fraudster pilot receive?

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PILOTS DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What are the pros and cons of being a pilot?
- c) Will this story make you worry about fake pilots the next time you fly?
- d) How do you think Sirlo could have made a flight in a cockpit without the other pilots suspecting he was a fake?
- e) How much of a danger do you think Sirlo posed to passengers on the flight he was the third pilot of?
- f) Do you think airports need to tighten their security because of this incident?
- g) What do you think the actor Leonardo DiCaprio might think of this?
- h) Would you like to be a pilot?
- i) What questions would you like to ask "Andea Sirlo"?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120925-fake_pilot.html

Italian police have arrested a 32-year-old man who used a fake (1) _____ to try to get to fly in the cockpit of a plane at Turin airport. The unemployed Italian was apprehended at the check-in counter while trying to (2) _____ an Air Dolomiti flight as the third pilot. The airline is part of Germany's national (3) _____ Lufthansa. Police have yet to name the man, but he was operating under the (4) _____ name of Andrea Sirlo. He was wearing a pilot's uniform and was carrying (5) _____ identity cards that claimed he was a qualified aviator. Police searched his bag and found more pilot uniforms as well as fake resumes, airline badges and an airport staff parking permit. He has been charged with a (6) _____ of airport security and impersonation.

Investigators have discovered that "Mr Sirlo" has successfully (7) _____ off his scam at least once before. Police said: "On at least one occasion in 2012, he (8) _____ as a pilot of a foreign commercial airline, and with a fake name succeeded (9) _____ flying as the third pilot in the cockpit." A search of MyFlightBook.com, a website that tracks flight details, also shows that a pilot named Andrea Sirlo flew from Munich airport to Turin on 23 October, 2011. Sirlo said he was inspired (10) _____ the 2002 Leonardo DiCaprio movie "Catch Me If You Can". In the film, DiCaprio plays a real-life con (11) _____ who flew over one million miles on over 250 flights in the 1960s. "I saw that film and I wanted to be like [that guy]," Sirlo (12) _____ told police.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) identity | (b) identify | (c) identified | (d) IDs |
| 2. | (a) wood | (b) plank | (c) board | (d) timber |
| 3. | (a) carriage | (b) carry on | (c) carry out | (d) carrier |
| 4. | (a) bemoaned | (b) assumed | (c) resumed | (d) charmed |
| 5. | (a) forgeries | (b) forge | (c) forgery | (d) forged |
| 6. | (a) birch | (b) broach | (c) breach | (d) beech |
| 7. | (a) took | (b) pulled | (c) taxied | (d) flew |
| 8. | (a) posed | (b) proposed | (c) posted | (d) posited |
| 9. | (a) in | (b) out | (c) up | (d) of |
| 10. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) by | (d) to |
| 11. | (a) painter | (b) designer | (c) maestro | (d) artist |
| 12. | (a) reports | (b) reportedly | (c) reporting | (d) report |

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. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the life of a pilot. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PILOTS: Make a poster about pilots. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. FAKE: Write a magazine article about the fake pilot. Include imaginary interviews with him, a passenger, the airline boss and a police officer.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the fake pilot. Ask him three questions about his attempts to fly for free. Give him three opinions on his actions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. arrested | a. detained |
| 2. identity | b. ID |
| 3. assumed | c. false |
| 4. permit (noun) | d. pass |
| 5. breach | e. violation |
| 6. scam | f. fraud |
| 7. posed as | g. pretended to be |
| 8. tracks (verb) | h. follows |
| 9. inspired | i. motivated |
| 10. con artist | j. fraudster |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a 32-year-old man who used | a. a fake identity |
| 2. the cockpit | b. of a plane |
| 3. part of Germany's national | c. carrier Lufthansa |
| 4. an airport staff | d. parking permit |
| 5. breach of | e. airport security |
| 6. successfully pulled | f. off his scam |
| 7. he posed | g. as a pilot |
| 8. a website that tracks | h. flight details |
| 9. a real-life con | i. artist |
| 10. one million miles | j. on over 250 flights |

GAP FILL:

Fly-for-free fake pilot arrested

Italian police have arrested a 32-year-old man who used a (1) **fake** identity to try to get to fly in the (2) **cockpit** of a plane at Turin airport. The unemployed Italian was apprehended at the check-in counter while trying to (3) **board** an Air Dolomiti flight as the third pilot. The airline is part of Germany's national carrier Lufthansa. Police have yet to name the man, but he was (4) **operating** under the assumed name of Andrea Sirlo. He was wearing a pilot's uniform and was carrying forged (5) **identity** cards that claimed he was a qualified (6) **aviator**. Police searched his bag and found more pilot uniforms as well as fake resumes, airline badges and an airport staff parking (7) **permit**. He has been charged with a (8) **breach** of airport security and impersonation.

Investigators have discovered that "Mr Sirlo" has successfully (9) **pulled** off his scam at least once before. Police said: "On at least one occasion in 2012, he (10) **posed** as a pilot of a foreign commercial airline, and with a fake name (11) **succeeded** in flying as the third pilot in the cockpit." A search of MyFlightBook.com, a website that (12) **tracks** flight details, also shows that a pilot named Andrea Sirlo flew from Munich airport to Turin on 23 October, 2011. Sirlo said he was (13) **inspired** by the 2002 Leonardo DiCaprio movie "Catch Me If You Can". In the film, DiCaprio plays a real-life (14) **con** artist who flew over one million miles on over 250 (15) **flights** in the 1960s. "I saw that film and I wanted to be like [that guy]," Sirlo (16) **reportedly** told police.

LANGUAGE WORK

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