

Turtle's walk delays planes at Tokyo airport

30th September, 2021



There are many reasons for delays at airports. Sometimes it's bad weather, sometimes it's a technical problem, and other times it's a passenger who is late to the boarding gate. Narita Airport in Tokyo, Japan has

added a new cause of flight delays - a turtle going for a walk. The runway at Narita had to close for 12 minutes because a 2.1-kilogram turtle was spotted on the tarmac. The pilot of an airplane waiting to take off told air traffic controllers about the small reptile at around 11:35am. There was an immediate search for it. This caused the delay of five flights. Airport staff managed to locate the creature. They safely removed it with a net. They reported that it was unharmed.

A Narita Airport spokesperson said she believed the turtle lived in a nearby pond. It managed to get under a fence alongside the airport and crawl onto the runway. The turtle might have decided to sunbathe because of the warm weather. It was a lot warmer than usual at the airport for the time of the year. Shortly after the turtle was caught, an A380 airplane took off from the runway. By coincidence, the A380 was painted in a turtle design. The plane was from the Japanese airline ANA. It was going to the island of Okinawa in the south of Japan. An ANA spokesperson said: "Turtles are seen as bringing good luck. We hope this turtle, who came to see the flight off, signals a bright future."

Sources:
the-japan-news.com / theguardian.com / simpleflying.com

Writing

Airports need better security. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

delays / airports / bad weather / technical problems / flight delays / pilot / creature / turtle / pond / sunbathe / airplane / runway / coincidence / island / good luck / future

True / False

- 1) The article says there are a few things that cause airport delays. T / F
- 2) A turtle on the tarmac shut a runway at a Tokyo airport for 12 minutes. T / F
- 3) The turtle was spotted at 11:35 at night. T / F
- 4) The turtle caused the delay of five flights from the airport. T / F
- 5) The turtle had escaped from a cage in the baggage area. T / F
- 6) The turtle may have wanted to sunbathe on the runway. T / F
- 7) One of the delayed planes was painted in a turtle design. T / F
- 8) Turtles are seen as a sign of good luck. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. reasons | a. neighbourhood |
| 2. technical | b. safe |
| 3. spotted | c. chance |
| 4. immediate | d. mechanical |
| 5. unharmed | e. indicates |
| 6. nearby | f. instant |
| 7. caught | g. causes |
| 8. coincidence | h. representative |
| 9. spokesperson | i. seen |
| 10. signals | j. captured |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of turtles?
- b) Have you ever been delayed?
- c) What do you think of airports?
- d) Have you ever experienced technical problems?
- e) What do you think of turtles going for a walk?
- f) Should airports introduce anti-turtle security?
- g) How do you feel when you are delayed?
- h) What damage could the turtle have caused?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. There are many reasons | a. bringing good luck |
| 2. sometimes it's a technical | b. to the boarding gate |
| 3. a passenger who is late | c. of five flights |
| 4. air traffic | d. than usual |
| 5. This caused the delay | e. fence alongside the airport |
| 6. she believed the turtle lived | f. for delays at airports |
| 7. It managed to get under a | g. in a turtle design |
| 8. It was a lot warmer | h. problem |
| 9. the A380 was painted | i. in a nearby pond |
| 10. Turtles are seen as | j. controllers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about turtles?
- Why do turtles like to sunbathe?
- What do you think of the coincidence mentioned in this news?
- What was the last coincidence you experienced?
- Why are turtles seen as bringing good luck?
- Do you think you will have a bright future?
- What questions would you like to ask the pilot?

Spelling

- There are many reasons for ealdsy
- sometimes it's a athliccen problem
- spotted on the cartam
- air atfrcif controllers
- There was an teamidem search
- They safely eevrdom it with a net
- the turtle lived in a yraneb pond
- get under a cfene
- unhtabes because of the warm weather
- Shortly after the turtle was ugcath
- By cenclioncei, the A380 was painted in a turtle design
- signals a btgihr future

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – A Walking Turtle

You think a walking turtle is the most annoying reason for a flight delay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a late passenger, a security alert or bad weather.

Role B – A Late Passenger

You think a late passenger is the most annoying reason for a flight delay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a walking turtle, a security alert or bad weather.

Role C – A Security Alert

You think a security alert is the most annoying reason for a flight delay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a late passenger, a walking turtle or bad weather.

Role D – Bad Weather

You think bad weather is the most annoying reason for a flight delay. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their reasons aren't as annoying. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): a late passenger, a security alert or a walking turtle.

Speaking – Airport delays

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that are most likely to cause flight delays at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Turtles | • Cabin cleaning |
| • Weather | • Waiting for luggage |
| • Bird strikes | • Late passengers |
| • Security alerts | • Technical problems |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.