



Qantas Plane Lands Safely



Exercise 1

Vocabulary

mayday

NOUN

a special radio signal sent from an aircraft when it needs help

The captain, with more than 18,000 hours of flight time, gave no warning and no **mayday** call.

disembark

VERB

to leave a ship, aircraft, etc. after a trip

Passengers **disembarking** from arriving planes should proceed to Passport Control.

precaution

NOUN

an action that is done to prevent something unpleasant or dangerous happening:

Safety **precautions** are observed as a matter of course.

shutdown

NOUN

the act or process of ending the operations either temporarily or permanently

The stock market has just resumed trading after a two-week **shutdown**.

airline

NOUN

a business that operates regular services for carrying passengers by aircraft:

The **airline** will launch its new transatlantic service next month.



Exercise 2

Article

Qantas Plane Lands Safely

A Qantas flight landed safely at Sydney Airport Wednesday after a mayday alert was issued on approach.

"The 145 passengers onboard disembarked the aircraft normally," Qantas stated.

The airline said QF144 reported "an issue with one of its engines" over the Tasman Sea after departing Auckland, New Zealand on Wednesday afternoon.

The mayday alert was downgraded to a "possible assistance needed" alert before the flight landed at Sydney Airport (SYD) around 3:30 p.m. local time, the airline said.

The Boeing 737 was "about an hour from its destination" in Sydney when the alert was issued. The route between the countries' two largest cities usually takes about three and a half hours.

Fire, ambulance and police services were sent to the Sydney airport as a precaution, according to a representative for the airport.

Qantas engineers are now assessing the aircraft, the airline confirmed.

"While inflight engine shutdowns are rare, and would naturally be concerning for passengers, our pilots are trained to manage them safely and aircraft are designed to fly for an extended period on one engine," said an official statement from the airline.

Passengers said they heard some disruptions on the flight, however, they couldn't tell what had caused it.

"I just heard a bang, and maybe a slight shudder, but that was it," one passenger said. "They were so professional about it and so calm about it."

"I noticed something, but it wasn't really recognizable," another passenger said.

No one on board was injured.

Exercise 3

Question

1. How many people got off the aircraft according to the article?
2. How long did it take the whole route between Sydney's largest cities?
3. What happened during the flight? Did it alarm the passengers?
4. How many people had an injury during the flight?



Exercise 4

Discussion

1. Is it safe to take a plane? How so?
2. What are the similarities of air freight and sea freight?
3. What are the pros and cons of given modes of transportation?

Exercise 5

Further Discussion

1. Have you been on a plane before? How was it?
2. What was your ideal flight experience?
3. Which one do you prefer—air, water, or land transport? Why?