

The New York Times

Cellphones may put an end to quiet flying

Security lines, weather delays and equipment failures make flying a burden for many people. For Jason Green, it is heaven - virtually the only place where he is not bombarded by phone calls and e-mail. "Being on a plane has become a mini-retreat for me," said Mr. Green, 32, executive vice president of Touchstone Pictures. "Long international flights are
5 like vacation. No phone, no-email and no guilt for being unreachable."

But American air companies are reassessing the rules barring phones in the air and some international airlines are gradually introducing Internet access to their planes. And two European carriers - TAP Air Portugal and BMI, a British company - said recently that they would become the first to introduce cellphone service, in three-month trials on flights
10 within Europe next year.

Many passengers fear being next to someone talking on the phone. Some business travellers say they enjoy the time away from electronic devices, and they have come to think of the airplane cabin as a place to nap, think or even work. Once cellphones are allowed on airplanes, the solution may not be so simple as keeping the devices turned off,
15 since business associates and bosses will expect to be able to get in touch.

James E. Katz, director of the center for mobile communication studies at Rutgers University, said airplanes have become the last place where people in business do not feel obliged to be constantly available. The travellers are actually not being lazy by wanting to avoid work, but rather can really use the quiet time. "Being in an airplane is like going to a
20 monastery," Mr. Katz said.

How to provide phone access on airplanes is a debate with many participants. An advisory committee of the Federal Aviation Administration is looking at whether cellphone use interferes with aircraft equipment. The Federal Communications Commission is studying whether transmissions from planes could interfere with cellphones on the ground.
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And many people simply do not want to hear others chatting in flight. Melissa Brown, a flight attendant from Memphis, said she feared that cellphone use would give rise to more stress, especially among first-class travellers. "With cellphone usage, they'll have a new way to compete," she wrote. "Imagine 15 people or so yelling at their secretaries telling them how they needed their reports yesterday."
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Mr. Reed said he was trying to take advantage of his in-flight quiet time while he still could. "It's going to happen one way or another," he said, sighing. But until then, "it has been a nice break."

Source: The New York Times, October 15, 2005 (adapted)

Vocabulary

security lines: *files d'attente aux contrôles de sécurité*

to reassess: *réévaluer*

to nap: *faire un petit somme*

to sigh: *soupirer*.

> TRAVAIL A FAIRE PAR LE CANDIDAT

A- Répondez en français aux questions suivantes, en utilisant uniquement les informations contenues dans le texte. Composez des phrases complètes et justifiez toujours vos réponses. (9)

1. Quels sont les trois désagréments rencontrés par de nombreux passagers lors de leurs déplacements en avion? (1.5)
2. Pourquoi les hommes d'affaires apprécient-ils particulièrement les moments passés en vol? (1.5)
3. Quels nouveaux services certaines compagnies aériennes internationales introduisent-elles petit à petit? (2)
4. Quelle est la crainte partagée par de nombreux passagers en ce qui concerne ces nouveaux services? Que redoutent certains hommes d'affaires? (2)
5. Quels sont les problèmes techniques dont débattent certaines commissions aériennes fédérales? (2)

B - Traduisez en français le dernier paragraphe (3):

De "Mr Reed said... " à la ligne 32 "... a nice break".

C- Recopiez le paragraphe en le complétant avec quatre mots choisis dans la liste suivante: why, where, whose, when, which, who, what, how (2)

Mobile phones, _____ are so popular, facilitate communication. Businessmen, _____ travel a lot, use them constantly. Planes are one of the places _____ mobiles phones can't be used for safety reasons. This rule will change _____ the new trials are finished successfully.

D- Recopiez le paragraphe suivant en mettant les verbes entre parenthèses à la forme exigée par le contexte. (2)

Years ago people (to communicate) by writing letters. Nowadays, businessmen (to use) mobile phones and the Internet every day to exchange information but at the moment they (to feel) under pressure because they can be contacted at anytime. Nobody knows how fast the new technology (to develop) in the years to come.

E - Can mobile phones be used in all places or should their use be limited? Do you personally use your own mobile phone everywhere? Write 10 lines in English. (4)