

BEFORE YOU READ

DIGITAL
FLASH
CARDSA ▶ 5:17 VOCABULARY • *Transportation problems* Read and listen. Then listen again and repeat.We **had an accident**.We **had mechanical problems**.We **missed** our train.We **got bumped** from the flight.We **got seasick**.

Also:

carsick



airsick



B ▶ 5:18 LISTEN TO ACTIVATE VOCABULARY Listen and complete each statement with the Vocabulary.

- 1 They 4 They
 2 They 5 They
 3 They

READING ▶ 5:19

GOT BUMPED FROM A FLIGHT?

Maybe it's not so bad after all . . .



As most travelers know, airlines commonly overbook flights because of the large and predictable number of “no-shows”—people who have reservations but don’t show up for the flight. Overbooking helps airlines limit the number of empty seats on their flights. However, if a flight is overbooked, some passengers with confirmed reservations have to get off the plane.

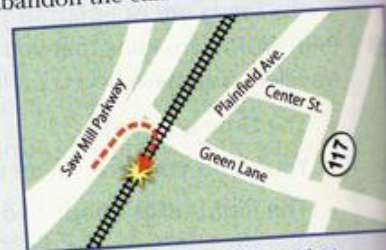
Getting bumped isn’t always a bad thing, however. There is a growing number of passengers who feel lucky if their flight is overbooked. Why? Because airlines have to provide bumped passengers with cash, free flights, hotels, and/or meals to compensate them for their inconvenience.

In fact, airlines usually ask for volunteers to get off an overbooked flight in exchange for those perks, and many passengers say “Sure!” and happily deplane. Some people even make a habit of choosing flights that are likely to be overbooked, just so they can volunteer!

Driver blames GPS for train crash

BEDFORD HILLS—Last night, Edward Carter, 43, of White Plains told police that his car’s global positioning system (GPS) instructed him to make a wrong turn directly onto the train tracks in Bedford Hills. When he turned, his car became stuck on the track, and he had to abandon the car.

In a statement to the police, the man said he was driving north with his son on the Saw Mill Parkway at about 8 p.m. They planned to go to a restaurant on Route 117.



The location of last night’s accident

Following the instructions from his GPS unit, he exited the parkway at Green Lane. But then, instead of driving to Route 117 and turning right there, he made a very wrong turn. He turned right at the railroad tracks. The man and his son tried to move the car off the tracks, but they couldn’t. Shortly afterward, a Metro-North commuter train hit Mr. Carter’s car. Luckily, there were no deaths or injuries. Police say that drivers need to pay attention to the road, not the GPS unit.

CRITICAL THINKING Based on the Reading and your own ideas, discuss the following topics.

- 1 Why do you think airlines overbook flights?
- 2 Are there some advantages of getting bumped from a flight? What are they?
- 3 What are some advantages of GPS systems? What are some disadvantages?
- 4 Do you prefer GPS systems, online maps with instructions, or paper maps? Explain.

EXERCISES

NOW YOU CAN Describe transportation problems

A Check all the means of transportation you have taken. Then add other means you know.



☐ bus



☐ train



☐ taxi



☐ limousine



☐ ferry



☐ ship



☐ airplane



☐ helicopter

☐ other

B PAIR WORK Ask your partner questions about the means of transportation he or she checked.

“ When was the last time you took a train? ”

C NOTEPADDING Choose a time when you had transportation problems. On the notepad, make notes about the trip.

means of transportation:
month, day, or year of trip:
destination:
problems:

D GROUP WORK Now tell your story to your classmates. Describe your transportation problems. Ask them questions about their problems.

Text-mining (optional)

Find and underline three words or phrases in the Reading that were new to you. Use them in your Group Work. For example: “no-shows.”

You won't believe what happened on my business trip. First, I got carsick in the airport limo. Then . . .



RECYCLE THIS LANGUAGE.

Problems

The ___ was terrible.
The ___ were unfriendly.
They canceled my ____.
The ___ didn't work.
They lost my ____.

Someone stole my ____.
The ___ drove me crazy.
The [flight] was bumpy / scary.
The [drive] was long / boring.

Responses

What was wrong with the ____?
I'm sorry to hear that.
That's a shame / too bad.
Oh, no!