

Air Rage

The first recorded case of an airline passenger turning seriously violent during a flight, a phenomenon now widely known as "air rage", happened in 1947 on a flight from Havana to Miami. A drunk man assaulted another passenger and bit a flight attendant. However, the man escaped punishment because it was not then clear under whose legal control a crime committed on plane was, the country where the plane was registered or the country where the crime was committed. In 1963, at the Tokyo convention, it was decided that the laws of the country where the plane is registered take precedence.

The frequency of air rage has expanded out of proportion to the growth of air travel. Until recently few statistics were gathered about air rage, but those that have been indicate that passengers are increasingly likely to cause trouble or engage in violent acts. For example, in 1998 there were 266 air rage incidents out of approximately four million passengers, a 400% increase from 1995. In the same period American Airlines showed a 200% rise. Air travel is predicted to rise by 5% internationally by 2010 leading to increased airport congestion. This, coupled with the flying public's increased aggression, means that air rage may become a major issue in coming years.

Aside from discomfort and disruption, air rage poses some very real dangers to flying. The most extreme of these is when out of control passengers enter the cockpit. This has actually happened on a number of occasions, the worst of which have resulted in the death and injury of pilots or the intruder taking control of the plane, almost resulting in crashes. In addition, berserk passengers sometimes attempt to open the emergency doors while in flight, putting the whole aircraft in danger. These are extreme examples and cases of air rage more commonly result in physical assaults on fellow passengers and crew such as throwing objects, punching, stabbing or scalding with hot coffee.

Look at the words in the table and decide which word will fit in the reading gap fill summary.

Predicted	rose	incident	passenger	found	assault
established	occurring	hoped	increased	Injury	passengers

Summary

The first time that an (1)_____ of air rage was recorded was in the 1940's, but the passenger was never actually charged for an offense because there were no clear rules in place to specify where to persecute. It was later (2)_____ that it would be the country where the plane was registered. Air rage has (3)_____ significantly since this time growing by a staggering 400% from 1995 to 1998. Air rage is (4)_____ to be a major problem in the future as air travel increases, as do levels of aggression. Angry (5)_____ can put everyone in danger including the pilots, the crew and the other passengers, with some form of (6) _____ being the most common consequences.