

Hidden costs

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Deciding the three most important factors when choosing an airline

Scanning an article and matching each paragraph to its heading

Reading an article about fares on budget airlines

Identifying words in the article

Discussing questions arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Tell students that this lesson is about budget airlines. Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to choose the most important three factors they consider when choosing an airline to fly with. Students compare their choices with a partner. Elicit feedback. Encourage students to justify their choices.
- 2 Give students a minute to read the paragraph headings, scan the article, and match each heading to the correct paragraph.

Answers

(a) – [3] (b) – [4] (c) – [2] (d) – [1]

- 3 Ask students read whole the article. Ask them to describe the steps of the online booking process. How do the airlines respond to the criticism of adding extra charges? You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary, such as: *offender* / *eye-catching* / *avoidable* / *modifications*.
- 4 Ask students to identify the words in the article from the definitions.

Answers

(a) *generate (income)* (b) *debit card* (c) *stealthy* (d) *misleading* (e) *comply (with)*

- 5 Divide the class into groups and ask the students to discuss the questions. Monitor the discussions. Ask someone from each group to report back to the class. Encourage questions and discussion. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.ryanair.com>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budget_airlines#Criticism

<http://www.oft.gov.uk/>

<http://www.fool.co.uk/news/money-saving-tips/travel/2007/11/16/the-hidden-costs-of-budget-airlines.aspx>