

Volcanic ash

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Talking about students' personal experience of being affected by volcanic ash

Matching headings with the correct paragraph

Reading and summarising an article about the effects on aviation of volcanic ash

Identifying words in the article from their definitions

Discussing questions arising from the article

How to use the lesson

1 Tell students the lesson is about the recent travel chaos due to volcanic ash. Issue the worksheet and let students discuss their own experiences in pairs. Elicit examples from anyone who has had an interesting experience.

2 Students match the headings with the correct paragraphs.

Answers:

(a) - (4) (b) - (3) (c) - (2) (d) - (1)

3 Students read the complete article. Ask the students to summarise the article. You may wish to look at any useful vocabulary at this point: *e.g. closure, clog, stranded, perishable, foodstuffs, disruption, re-route.*

4 Ask students to find words in the article from their definitions.

Answers:

(a) *chaos* (b) *stranded* (c) *disruption* (d) *ban* (e) *refund* (f) *stuck*

5 Divide students into small groups to discuss the questions. Students report back on their discussion to the whole class. Encourage questions and discussion. Finally, give language feedback on any major errors you notice.

Related websites

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

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8634944.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8685229.stm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_travel_disruption_after_the_2010_Eyjafjallaj%C3%B6kull_eruption

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/eu_iceland_volcano