The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #7

**Becoming a Pilot**

There you are, soaring through the clouds. The ground is thousands of feet below. You’re not a bird. You’re not a plane. You are an airplane pilot. You’ve studied hard. You’ve paid the money. You’ve passed the tests. You’ve kept yourself healthy. You have prepared yourself for this day. Now you can actually fly.

How do you get a pilot’s license? First, you have to apply for flight school. There are various schools. Some people also learn to fly after joining the military. You have to study some information in books. You have to attend some classes. You have to past some hard tests. You also have to fly a certain number of hours with an instructor. It’s a lot like getting your license to drive a car.

It’s good to know a little math as a pilot. You can use math to figure out the costs of the initial training. For example, you may need to figure out the cost of 60 hours of training, as well as the gas and oil. It is important to be able to determine the speed of the aircraft. If you can do that, you can know when to slow down before landing. Another important use of math is in calculating wind speed. That way, you can know whether there might be turbulence. Then a pilot can tell passengers to be prepared.

You may think that airplane computers do all the math. What if the on-board computer system goes down? Do you start to sweat? Do you panic? No, a pilot can still calculate velocity and wind speed. He or she can then still fly and land the plane safely. Wouldn’t that be a little less stressful?

What if you were flying on a plane with a really sick pilot? What if her eyesight was going bad? There is another thing that some may not know about being a pilot. You have to pass regular health exams. As a pilot, staying in shape is important for you as well as others.

338/4.5

© Daniel J. Boudah