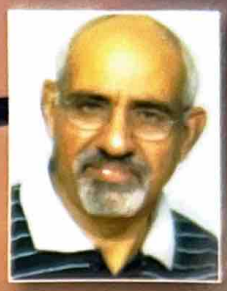
AVIATION HUMOR





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HUMOUR IN AIR

Aircraft is a complicated machine and its operations are a serious business. To operate and maintain aircraft involves a large body of personnel. As per a conservative estimate a large aircraft like an Airbus A-300 or Boeing 737 requires 8-10 pilots, 20-25 cabin crew, about 80 technical personnel and almost an equal number of other personnel for its operation. All of them work for the most important personnel in this business; the passengers. For every flight to be on time resulting in utmost comfort for all the passengers requires a close coordination between all of them and that involves some kind of communications.

Though all these personnel interact with each other, and that too under severe pressure most of the time, yet it does not mean that the atmosphere in and around aircraft operations is always serious. The fact is; it is hardly ever so, primarily because of the basic tenant of life that humour has no particular place to begin. Fun, jovial moments and raw humor, can and does happen at all conceivable and even in-conceivable places. In fact it is all around us, almost all the time, and aircraft operations are no exceptions. All that is required to notice and enjoy humour, is to keep eyes and ears open.'



Involving Passengers

Let us start our journey of tracing humorous moments with the moment someone enters the airport terminal building and finish with the landing of aircraft. Each step has its lighter and funny moments. Savour these.

Check-in counter: A passenger entered the airport terminal and walked to the check-in counter pushing the luggage trolley. It was one of the low-cost airlines and had recently introduced extra charges almost everything including additional charges for extra-ordinarily fat people. Though this particular passenger did not seem to be over-weight, yet the counter-clerk asked in a routine manner as to how much he weighed. Being a regular traveler by air and not accustomed to this type of question, he thought of playing smart and asked, 'with clothes or without?' An equally smart counter clerk replied, 'whichever way you intend to travel, sir!'

Tighten your Seat-belt: As soon as the aircraft doors closed, the cabin-crew started moving down the aisle looking at the passengers and telling them to bring the seat in an up-right position

career. This will open doors that you may have never expected. Always do your best and work hard; someone may recognize that and recommend you to someone higher up in the aviation field. Impress people with your knowledge, skill, and integrity.

Like any good problem solver, always have a Plan B in case something does not turn out as you had hoped. Spend your time well and try not to waste it! Always double check any information with a reliable source before taking it for true. This is especially important when browsing the web. If something you read sounds too good to be true, it may be. Be smart in managing your time, money and training goals.

You may get your first job as a pilot or flight instructor at the location where you received your training. Your qualifications, character and contacts will carry you far. When applying for jobs emphasize your strengths and show enthusiasm; between two pilots of equal qualification, the one that seems more eager is more likely to get the job.

Schools offer Job Placement Programs that can help you get started. If you have established good relations with those at your school you will be a step ahead. Most flight schools hire their own graduates first, especially if their instructor recommends them. The instructor you work with will be the one to look to when you need references, so keep them impressed with your abilities.

Attitude can make or break a deal. Be assertive in leadership situations and be cooperative in team situations. If you are able to work with others as well as on your own, employers will be more likely to see you as a valuable asset to their organization.

Marketing is paramount. Always have a good answer ready as to why an employer should hire you. What makes you better than some other new graduate? Keep your resume professional and complete at all times; don't fall behind with updates; these can add that extra push that may make an employer hire you.

Don't give an unimpressive first impression. Be professional, always. Especially when going in for interviews: dress appropriately, be on time, and have all the information they may ask for. Show that you have an interest in the company you are applying for. Do you know anything about their background and history? What sort of things is the company known for? Do they have any well-known pilots on their team? Do your work and they will see that you are a determined individual that always does his/her best.

Don't give up! Even if a few employers decide not to hire you right away, keep trying. Look for other employers and send updated resumes to those that may have turned you down the first time. Maybe they just wanted more experience, if you keep them updated you show that you don't give up easily which can be a deciding factor in getting you a job down the road. Keep a positive attitude and stay determined! That is how you will land your dream career.



Good luck and have fun!

Shekhar is a Professional Pilot with more then 8 years experience of Flying on 14 different types of Aircrafts in 15 different countries with Accident Free Flying Record. Shekhar is good in Flying Training as well as in Ground Class for Pilots. Shekhar started his flying career from Skycabs [Colombo] and worked for many Airlines Training Companies from different part of the World. He has trained more then 350 Pilots who are flying world wide. He is an Active Member of Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association [USA], Royal Society of Aeronautics [UK], Delhi Flying Club, Aeronautical Society of India, MP Flying Club Indore, Aeronautical Research Society. He is a Frequent Flyer on AA, Air India, British Airways, Cathey Pacific, Delta Airlines, Emerites, Ethihad, Jet Airways and many more. Shekhar is an Active Team Member of www.MissionToCanada.com set up by Govt. of Canada and Air Transport Association of Canada.

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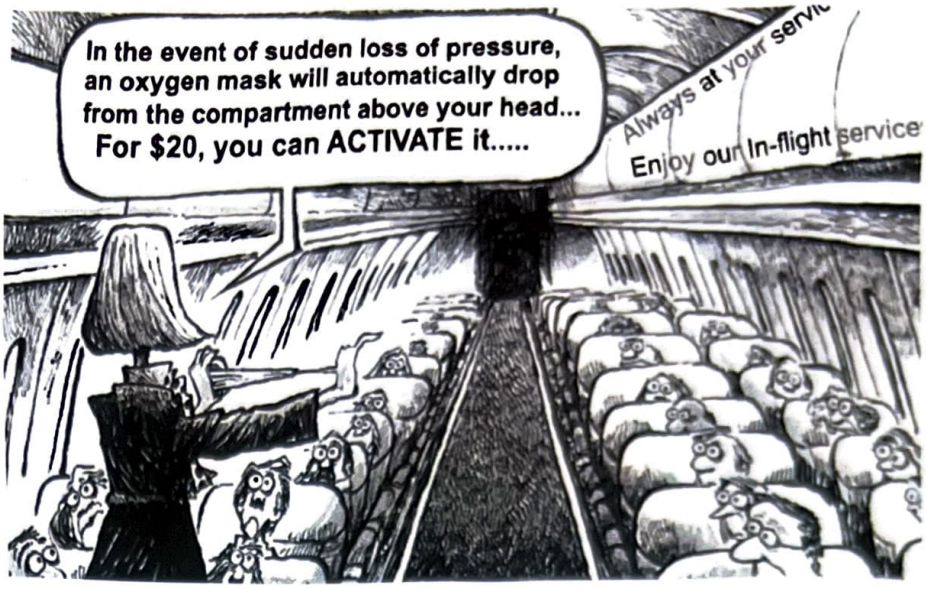
and tighten the seat-belt. However one passenger remained un-concerned and when the flight steward requested him to tighten the seat-belt, he replied, 'How can I, so far you have not demonstrated how to do it!'

Taxiing for Take-off: After receiving the check-in ticket from the counter, customary security check and the perennial wait for the call to proceed towards the ready aircraft, the passengers finally boarded the aircraft. Soon the doors were closed, the ladders removed and the aircraft rolled for take-off. Halfway through the tarmac, the aircraft abruptly stopped, turned around and returned to the parking slot. There was a routine announcement saying that it was an unavoidable situation and passengers were requested to kindly bear the inconvenience. After an hour-long wait, aircraft finally took off. A really concerned passenger asked the air-hostess as to what the problem was? The cool air-hostess replied, 'the pilot was bothered by a noise he heard in the engine.' Seeing an inquisitive and perplexed look on the face of the passenger, she added, 'it took us a while to find a new pilot.'

The first timer: There are always first timers in any scenario and this particular flight was no different. There was a passenger who belonged to the first-timer category and was quite apprehensive about almost everything. The air hostess attending to him however was an experienced one and was handling all questions, genuine as well as bordering on stupidity with great care and concern. It carried on for quite some time and sensing that air hostess was getting a bit impatient since she had to attend to other passengers as well, the still nervous passenger said, 'one final question Miss. How often do aircraft of this type crash?' The air hostess suppressed her smile and answered with all seriousness, 'Only once, sir!'



Please do something: The long-distance flight from Mumbai to London had been un-eventful for many hours but then the aircraft encountered bad weather and entered clouds. There was a lot of tossing-up and down of the aircraft. Most of the passengers accepted the fait accompli except one who called for the senior-most flight attendant and asked, 'Why can't you or the pilot do something about it?' When replied that the pilot was doing everything possible at his command to make the flight comfortable, the lady was not comforted and asked, 'Is there no one who can do something about this turbulence?' In a very cool and composed voice the air hostess replied, 'Mr Know-all, the owner of this airlines does have a lot of contacts and influence with some very high important people in the government, but unfortunately, Mother Nature is not one of them...not as yet Madam!'

Oh the noise!: Even after two drinks and a sumptuous meal, an elderly passenger in the upper class was unable to sleep. He asked for additional pillow and a blanket, yet the sleep eluded him. He then asked for a sleeping pill, but even that did not help. Concluding that it was the engine's noise that probably was the reason for his discomfort, he told the flight steward, 'please tell the captain to turn-off the plane's engine.' Promising that he would convey the request to the pilot, the flight steward proceeded to attend to other tasks. After a few minutes the passenger called the flight steward and asked if he had complied with the request and wanted to know as to what was pilot's reply. In all seriousness he answered, 'sir, the pilot says he is presently busy with other important tasks involved with flying but has promised to switch-off the engine after landing when he would be relatively free from the arduous task of flying the aircraft!'

The Landing: After a smooth flight, the landing was really rough. The pilot banged his aircraft into the runway really hard and it bounced many times before it came to a screeching halt at the parking lot. As the door opened for the passengers to alight, the pilot was standing at the door with a smile on his face, as per airlines policy to give them a 'thanks for flying our airline' look. However in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment to make. Everyone had gotten off without any

comment except for a little old lady who was the last one to get-off. Walking with a cane she came up to the pilot and said, 'Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?' The pilot with extra sweetness said, 'Not at all Madam, you are welcome.' "What was it?' The little old lady inquired, 'did we land, or were we shot down?'

In-flight Announcements

As you are aware all the Airlines are required to make in-flight announcements as a part of government regulations about safety procedures or the weather en-route. However most of the airlines, in addition, make announcements at regular intervals to breaks the monotony of any flight, more so a long distance flight. Such announcements are made either by the cabin-crew or the pilot. Normally such announcements are so well rehearsed that other than breaking the silence, they do nothing else. Yet there are times when really original and out of-this-world announcements have been made that would make any 'dead person come alive' as the saying goes.' Read the following interesting announcements and I am sure you would get a smile on your face if not a giggling laughter.

Welcome Message: The pilot was going through his customary message welcoming the passengers on board adding that the airlines was honoured to have them on board. After stating that the cabin-crew would look after them and all their needs, he added, 'I am pleased to inform you that our airline has some of the best flight attendants in the industry.' Then after a pause he added, 'unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!'

Matter of Fact: The aircraft had been flying for almost one hour and the refreshments had been served out. Suddenly the public address system came alive and the pilot announced, 'ladies and gentlemen, the weather is fine and we have reached cruising altitude. Now we shall be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants.' It is worth mentioning that on this particular flight, two out of five flight crew-members were very 'senior and hence aged' air hostesses.

What a Way to Say: Cabin crew was giving the customary in-flight briefing. After having explained the procedure of tightening and opening the seat belt, the announcement went like this. 'In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the overhead luggage compartment. Do not panic. Just grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask first before putting one on your child's face. However in case you are traveling with more than one small child, decide before hand who is your favourite.'

Generosity: During flight, one of the two engines developed trouble and had to be switched-off. After some time even the second engine started coughing. It was at that moment that the pilot decided to inform the passengers. In a very cool voice he said, 'We are trying to retrieve the situation and hopefully we shall succeed. Yet I would like to inform you that your seats cushions can be used for flotation. In the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore. And do not worry. You won't be asked to return them; you are permitted to take them home with our compliments.'

Sense of Humour: A particular Airline decided to be different from others and introduced intentional humour in their routine briefing. Before the take-off while giving instructions, the cabin-crew announced, 'Ladies and Gentlemen, there may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane...' And on arrival-at-destination flight attendant announced, 'We would like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you will surely think of us, the XXX Airways.'

Leaving the Plane: The customary announcement made after the aircraft has landed and is proceeding towards the parking bay is thanking the passengers for having chosen that particular airlines and expressing hope that their journey was comfortable and they would choose the same airlines the next time as well. The announcement in one particular case was entirely different and it was thus: 'As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. One additional request, please do not leave children or spouses.'

The Passengers Speak

The passengers constitute the bulk of man-power around the aircraft. In fact the passengers who are the back-bone of every airline are no less in contributing to the endless humour and generating lighter moments. However in their case, it does not generally get recorded and hence the books and magazines have less of these. Yet, whatever is available is really classy.

- A passenger seeing the cabin crew using intercom handset said, 'May I use it to speak to my son please.'
- An elderly lady asked the flight steward, 'Where is the ladies' toilet, please?
- A person chewing tobacco wanted to spit so asked the air hostess, 'Please help me to open the window.'
- A young boy pressed the over-head bell and when flight steward arrived, asked, 'oxygen mask has not fallen as yet, when it will happen?'