BBC LEARNING ENGLISH Take Away English 随身英语 Flying and emotion



高空飞行对情绪的影响

Vocabulary: Emotions 词汇: 情绪

I'll let you into a secret. There's a place that gets me every time: whenever I'm there, **I can't help but well up**. Where is this tear-inducing location? It's thousands of metres high in the sky, in the **cabin** of an aeroplane. Especially when there's a **trashy** romantic comedy on.

Why am I admitting this now? Because apparently, I'm not alone. English **crooner** Ed Sheeran confesses to getting all emotional when flying too. And **get this**: a survey carried out by Gatwick Airport in London found that 15% of men confess they're more likely to cry during films in planes than watching at home. And 41% of men owned up to **burying** themselves in the blankets to hide their tears in a separate survey by Virgin Atlantic. In all, 55% of air travellers in the Virgin study claimed they experience **heightened emotions** when flying.

So, what's going on? How does air travel **tap into** our hidden emotions? A study from the Netherlands has shown adults cry due to feelings of separation, loneliness or powerlessness. All of these are easily experienced when flying: you're far from family, often alone, and have no control over the aircraft's flight.

Another theory relates to the lack of distraction. When you're strapped into your seat in a sealed cabin in the sky, there's not a lot you can do. So we are able to **invest** ourselves more fully into the movies we watch.

Then there's the physical space. Air pressure and oxygen levels are lower, and this can affect our mental state. Conditions in an aeroplane resemble those at an **altitude** of 2,400m. The reduced oxygen at this height can affect the brain. According to a study by the US Institute of Medicine: "the initial mood experienced at altitude is **euphoria**, followed by depression."

And what about the movies themselves? Virgin say top **culprits** include **tearjerkers** such as Billy Elliot, Eat Pray Love and, at number one position, Toy Story 3. Their emotional **firepower** even caused the aeroplane to slap **tongue-in-cheek** "emotional health warnings" on select movies back in 2011.

Virgin Atlantic film critic Jason Solomons said at the time, "On a flight, we're **isolated**, leaving loved ones or aching to be reunited with them. We're nervous, we're tired, we might have had a drink at a time we usually wouldn't, and if we see an image, a scene that reflects our **emotional state**, frankly we're **suckers**. Flying and films is a heady **cocktail**.

词汇表	
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l can't help but	我情不自禁地,我忍不住		
well up	(眼泪)涌出		
cabin	客舱		
trashy	质量低劣的		
crooner	情歌歌手(通常指男歌手)		
get this	(固定搭配)听听这个		
bury	埋藏		
heightened emotions	高亢的情绪		
tap into	进入,深入了解		
invest	投入		
altitude	海拔高度		
euphoria	亢奋,异常兴奋 ————————————————————————————————————		
culprit	罪魁祸首		
tearjerker	催人泪下的电影(书、戏剧等)		
firepower	火力		
tongue-in-cheek	开玩笑地		
isolated	隔离的,孤独的		
emotional state	情绪状态		
sucker	容易上当受骗的人		
cocktail	混合物,鸡尾酒		

测验与练习

- I. 阅读课文并回答问题。
- I. Where does the author always cry?

2. True or false: men cry 41% more often when in planes.

3. Why does the brain behave differently when flying thousands of metres high in a plane?

4. Which word means 'wishing for something so much it hurts'?

5. True or false: Virgin Atlantic were genuinely worried for the emotional wellbeing of their passengers.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

I. Sue felt after she finished the marathon. She was so happy.

heightened	euphoric	isolated	tongue-in-cheek		
2. Steve never deals with problems. He prefers to his head in the sand.					
heady	well up	croon	bury		
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3. That book was a real I cried all the way through.					
sucker	tear-inducer	tearjerker	weller upper		
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4. I don't feel very in this project. I think if I left it, no one would notice.					
invested	buried	trashy	isolated		
		·			
5. The experiment was designed to our deepest, darkest fears.					
tap into	invest	get	tap out of		

答案

- I. 阅读课文并回答问题。
- Where does the author always cry? The author always cries when in an aeroplane, especially when watching trashy movies.
- 2. True or false: men cry 41% more often when in planes. False. The 41% figure refers to the number of men who hide their crying. We don't know the percentage who cry more often in general, but those who cry more often when watching films is 15%.
- 3. Why does the brain behave differently when flying thousands of metres high in a plane? The cabin has lower air pressure and oxygen levels than the outside world, which can make the brain feel greater extremes such as euphoria and depression.
- 4. Which word means 'wishing for something so much it hurts'?'Aching'. If you are 'aching' for loved ones, you really want to see them.
- 5. True or false: Virgin Atlantic were genuinely worried for the emotional wellbeing of their passengers. False. Their 'emotional health warning' campaign was tongue-in-cheek. In other words, it was just for fun.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

- I. Sue felt **euphoric** after she finished the marathon. She was so happy.
- 2. Steve never deals with problems. He prefers to bury his head in the sand.
- 3. That book was a real **tearjerker**. I cried all the way through.
- 4. I don't feel very **invested** in this project. I think if I left it, no one would notice.
- 5. The experiment was designed to tap into our deepest, darkest fears.