

PILOT'S TALK

Lesson 3. Ask naturally

Level C - Ryanair fuel Mayday

В баре двое пилотов обсуждают рейс, который после трёх уходов на второй круг сел в Manchester с почти пустыми баками. Женщина за соседним столиком слышит знакомое название: завтра она летит в Edinburgh. Ей интересно не только то, что произошло, но и как пилоты смотрят на эту историю. Один прочитал отчёт, второй знает общую картину и вспоминает собственный опыт.

В упражнениях ты говоришь за новую знакомую: задаёшь вопросы пилотам. Их ответы уже даны.

В этом уроке	Что пригодится в разговоре
Войти в разговор и спросить деликатно	Would you mind if I asked...?; If you don't mind me asking, ...; Would you be willing to...?; Could you at least...?
Выяснить причину - и спросить с подтекстом	What led to...?; How did... leave them...?; How come...?; Couldn't they have...?; Wasn't that...?
Перейти к опыту собеседника	Have you ever...?; What was it that...?; Is that the report talking, or you?
Спросить о личном выборе	What would you have done?; Would you have felt...?; Wouldn't you have...?

Сначала - разговор



Sorry, I couldn't help overhearing. Would you mind if I asked you something?



Not at all.



Could you tell me what actually happened? I'm asking because I'm flying to Edinburgh tomorrow.



Three windshear go-arounds, an alternate that said no, a fuel Mayday, and 363 kilos on landing.



What led to Manchester saying no?



According to the AAIB, a breakdown in communication inside the airport.



So how did that refusal leave them so short of fuel?



They had to go to Edinburgh, went around there too, and by then getting back to Manchester took most of what they had left.



Couldn't they have gone somewhere closer?



Newcastle, for example. The AAIB suggests they'd got Manchester stuck in their heads.



Is that the report talking, or you?



The report. I'm not sure I'd have done any better.



Has anything like that ever happened to you?



Once. Different situation, though. We had plenty of fuel, and the weather wasn't as bad.



Would you have felt safe on that flight?



As one of the pilots? I'd have been too busy to feel much. That tends to catch up with you afterwards.

1. Спросить без нажима

A. В разговоре



If you don't mind me asking, which airline do you fly for?



I'd rather not say.



Fair enough. Could you at least tell me whether it's the same kind of aircraft?



Same family. That's as far as we go.

B. Would you mind if I asked...?

Would you mind if I + Past Simple? - вы не против, если я...?

Would you mind if I asked a personal question?

Would you mind if I joined you for a minute?

Asked / joined здесь делают просьбу мягче. Это не рассказ о прошлом.

Mind - «возражать», поэтому ответ **Not at all / No, go ahead** означает «конечно, спрашивайте».

В непринуждённом разговоре часто достаточно **Can I ask...?**:

Can I ask why they went all the way to Manchester?

C. Вопрос внутри вопроса

После **Can I ask / Could you tell me / Do you know** - обычный порядок слов.

Прямой вопрос	С вводной фразой
Why did they choose Manchester?	Can I ask why they chose Manchester?
What did they do next?	Could you tell me what they did next?
Were they worried?	Do you know whether they were worried?

Для вопроса «да / нет» - **whether / if**:

Can I ask **whether you've ever had** a fuel emergency?

Can I ask why **did they choose** Manchester? [X]

Can I ask why **they chose** Manchester? [OK]

D. Деликатный вопрос

Фраза	Как звучит	Пример
If you don't mind me asking , ... + обычный вопрос	если не секрет, ...	If you don't mind me asking , which airline do you fly for?
Would you be willing to + глагол	вы готовы...? (можно отказаться)	Would you be willing to tell me about it?
Could you at least + глагол	ну хотя бы... (после отказа)	Could you at least tell me whether it's the same type?
I'd rather not say. / Fair enough.	лучше не скажу / понятно, справедливо	-

Would you be willing to...? подчёркивает, что человек может отказаться, но иногда звучит более официально. **Could you...?** - обычная вежливая просьба, а не только вопрос о способности ответить. Для непринуждённого личного вопроса естественно **If you don't mind me asking**, ...

2. «И как так вышло?»

A. В разговоре



They'd taken extra fuel. So how did the refusal leave them so short?



More flying than planned. Two go-arounds at Prestwick, a diversion to Edinburgh, another go-around there, then the flight to Manchester.



Wasn't Manchester the airport that had refused them?



Same one. This time they came with a Mayday.

B. What led to ...?

What led to + существительное / -ing? - что привело к этому?

What led to the refusal? - Что привело к отказу?

What led to Manchester saying no? - Почему Manchester в итоге отказал?

В вопросе **what** заменяет причину, поэтому **did** не требуется. После **to** здесь - существительное или **-ing: the refusal / saying no**, а не **say no**.

C. How did ... leave them ...?

How did + событие + leave + человека + состояние? - как это привело человека к такому положению?

How did the refusal leave them so short of fuel?

Как из-за отказа у них осталось так мало топлива?

Состояние	Пример вопроса
so short of fuel	How did the refusal leave them so short of fuel ?
with so few options	How did the weather leave them with so few options ?

D. What made... / How come...?

What made + человек + глагол без to? - что побудило человека...?

What made them choose Manchester?

How come + порядок слов как в утверждении? - как так вышло, что...?

Why...?	How come...?
Why did they go back to Manchester?	How come they went back to Manchester?
Why didn't they look at Newcastle?	How come they didn't look at Newcastle?

После **how come** вопросительного **did** нет: сначала подлежащее, потом глагол. **Didn't** остаётся только в отрицании, как в обычном утверждении: **they didn't look**.

E. Вопрос с подтекстом: Couldn't they...? Wasn't that...?

Отрицательный вопрос показывает, что ты ждёшь «да» или удивлён: «а разве не...?»

Нейтрально	С подтекстом
Could they have gone to Newcastle?	Couldn't they have gone to Newcastle? - А разве не могли?
Was Manchester their alternate?	Wasn't Manchester their alternate? - Это же был их запасной?
Did they know about Glasgow?	Didn't they know about the windshear at Glasgow? - Разве они не знали?

Отвечают по факту, а не по форме вопроса:

- Couldn't they have gone to Newcastle? - **Yes, they could have.** = да, могли.

- Didn't they know? - **No, they didn't.** = нет, не знали.

3. «С вами такое бывало?»

A. В разговоре



Have you ever had to change your plans like that?



Plenty of times. Not with fuel that low, though.



What was it that made the difference that time your alternate said no?



We had more time and more fuel. That changes quite a lot.

B. Have you ever + V3?

Have you ever + V3? - было ли когда-нибудь в вашей жизни...?

Have you ever had to declare a Mayday?

Has anything like that ever happened to you?

C. От опыта - к конкретному случаю

Было ли вообще	Как было в том случае
Has an alternate ever refused you?	What did you do then?
Have you ever changed your destination in flight?	What made you change it?
Has that ever happened to you?	How did you deal with it?

Чтобы сравнить случаи:

Was your situation anything like theirs? - У вас было что-нибудь похожее?

What was different? - А что было иначе?

D. What was it that...? / Чьё это мнение?

What was it that + глагол? выделяет главное: «что именно...?»

What made you choose that airport? → **What was it that made you choose** that airport?

Чтобы понять, чьё это мнение, спрашивают прямо:

Is that the report talking, or you? - Это отчёт так говорит или вы?

Is that your experience or the report's view? - Это ваш опыт или вывод отчёта?

4. «А на их месте?»

A. В разговоре



Would you have gone to Manchester?



I might have. But I'd want to know exactly what other options I had.



Wouldn't you have at least looked at Newcastle?



I'd like to think so. Easy to say from a bar stool.

B. Would you have + V3?

Would you have + V3? - сделали бы вы это тогда, оказавшись на их месте?

Would you have chosen Manchester?

What would you have done?

When would you have declared a Mayday?

О реальном прошлом	О воображаемом прошлом
What did you do ?	What would you have done ?
How did you feel ?	How would you have felt ?

Wouldn't you have + V3? - тот же вопрос с подтекстом: «а вы бы разве не...?»

Wouldn't you have declared earlier?

Ещё один фрагмент разговора



When your alternate said no, what made you choose somewhere else?



Good weather at the next airport and enough fuel to get there comfortably.



So you still had a choice. They were running out of choices.



Exactly. That's the difference.



What would you have done if you'd had as little fuel as they did?



I'd have wanted to check every remaining option. I'm not going to pretend it was an easy call.

Practice

Короткие разговоры по темам. Каждое задание - отдельный разговор.

Собери вопрос новой знакомой. Реплики пилотов до и после него помогут понять, о чём она хочет спросить. Сокращения и другие грамматически правильные формулировки с тем же смыслом допустимы.

В упражнении 3.5 плиток нет: по ответу пилота задай вопрос сам. Подойдёт любой вопрос, на который этот ответ естественен; в ключе - один из вариантов.

3.1. Спросить деликатно

1.





Not at all. Go ahead.

you / something / would / to mind / you / if / to ask / I

2.



We've both read about it.





No. We only know it from the report.

you / to be / to do / on / to mind / flight / me / you / if / to ask / that / not

3.





I'd rather not, if you don't mind.

for / which / you / to be / me / would / to fly / to tell / willing / airline / you

4.



I'd rather not, if you don't mind.



Fair enough. _____



Same family. That's as far as we go.

to fly / the / to tell / at / whether / same / me / could / you / least / type / you

5.



Manchester was their alternate.





The wind forecast was better there than at Glasgow.

they / it / I / to ask / why / can / to choose

6.



They tried Edinburgh after Manchester said no.





Another windshear warning. They went around again.

me / you / to tell / could / what / there / to happen

7.



I've had a few nights I'd rather forget.





Maybe after another drink.

to tell / of / them / to be / would / you / willing / one / about / me

8.



The margin was the real problem.





363 kilos on landing. About a third of their final reserve.

to be / to know / it / actually / you / do / how / small

3.2. Как так вышло - и вопрос с подтекстом

1.



They carried more fuel than the basic plan required.



So _____



It sent them to Edinburgh, and the go-around there cost them a lot.

of / to leave / fuel / how / so / the / refusal / to do / them / short

2.



Manchester was on their flight plan.





According to the AAIB, a breakdown in communication inside the airport.

Manchester / to lead / to / what / no / to say

3.



They swapped Glasgow for Manchester in Pisa.





A better wind forecast.

to change / what / them / plan / the / to make

4.



Newcastle was closer, and the wind there was lower.





They could have. The report says they didn't even consider it.

there / to have / they / to go / not / instead / could

5.



And then they went back to Manchester.





Same one. This time with a Mayday.

the / that / that / airport / not / them / to have / to be / to refuse

6.



They didn't go back to Prestwick a third time.





Their procedures ruled it out after two windshear go-arounds.

to do / again / they / to come / not / to try / how

7.



The whole of Scotland was getting hammered by the storm.





They knew about the storm. Nobody knew exactly how the evening would go.

they / not / they / Pisa / before / to know / to leave / to do / that

8.



In the end they landed below final reserve.





It needed about 2,800 kilos with the reserve. They had about 2,100.

below / to / them / the / flight / it / to leave / to do / Manchester / how / back

3.3. С вами такое бывало?

1.





An alternate refusing us? Once, years ago. With much more fuel left.

that / like / anything / you / to happen / ever / to have / to

2.



Once, years ago. We went somewhere else.





The wind. It was the only one nearby with a decent wind.

that / else / to make / to be / what / you / somewhere / it / to go

3.



Diversions are part of the job.





A few times. Never with fuel that low.

weather / you / like / to have / to have / to / that / ever / in / to divert

4.



We had plenty of fuel and good weather at the next airport.



So _____



Only in that we lost an option.

like / your / to be / situation / theirs / anything

5.



We weren't counting on one approach working.





Time and fuel. We had both.

about / different / to be / then / case / what / your

6.



Most crews would have stayed fixed on Manchester too.





Me. The report is kinder to the system than I am.

you / to be / or / report / the / that / to talk

7.



Crews fix on their first plan more often than you'd think.





Seen it myself. Twenty-odd years of it.

what / to see / you've / yourself / something / that / to say / report / to be / just / or / the

8.



I've had some long nights in the cockpit.





Not with so little fuel and so many approaches failing.

with / you / like / to deal / this / to have / anything / ever

3.4. А на их месте?

1.



After Edinburgh, they had to decide where to go.





I'd have wanted to look at every airport still available.

to have / would / to do / you / what

2.



The captain chose Manchester.





Possibly. I'd need the full picture before claiming I'd have done better.

to have / too / would / to choose / you / it

3.



Newcastle was closer, but they didn't consider it.





I'd like to think so. Easy to say from a bar stool.

it / not / to consider / at / would / to have / least / you

4.



They discussed a Mayday before Edinburgh but didn't declare it then.





Maybe. It depends on how doubtful the landing looked at that point.

it / to declare / would / earlier / to have / you

5.



All 177 people landed safely, but with very little fuel.





If I'd known the fuel figures? Not great.

a / how / passenger / you / would / to feel / as / to have

6.



Another approach at Edinburgh was a hard call.





Somewhere with a better wind - if I'd had the fuel to get there.

to go / instead / to have / where / you / would

7.



They declared the fuel Mayday in the end.





Once I expected to land below final reserve. The question is when that became clear.

would / you / when / to declare / to have / it

8.



They knew things could get worse after another go-around.





Busy first. Terrified later, probably.

to have / to be / would / you / terrified / not

3.5. Всё вместе - без подсказок

1.



I've read the report. He's only seen the summary.





That Manchester refused them after taking nineteen other diversions.

2.



They'd checked the weather and carried extra fuel.





A lot more flying than planned - a refusal, a diversion and another go-around.

3.



Once our alternate couldn't take us either.





We found another airport while we still had plenty of fuel.

4.



Newcastle had only 22 knots.





They could have. They just didn't look at it.

5.



Crews get fixed on their first plan.





Both. I've seen it, and the report says so too.

6.



The fuel margin at Manchester was tiny.





Of course. By then they had very little room for anything else to go wrong.

7.



Nobody recorded the call at the airport.





Not exactly. We know who passed the refusal on, but not how it was reached.

8.



It's easy to have a better plan from a bar stool.





Honestly? I'd like to think I'd have checked every option.

Answer key

These are model answers. Correct alternatives are possible.

3.1. Спросить деликатно

1.



Would you mind if I asked you something?



Not at all. Go ahead.

2.



We've both read about it.



If you don't mind me asking, were you on that flight?



No. We only know it from the report.

3.



Would you be willing to tell me which airline you fly for?



I'd rather not, if you don't mind.

4.



I'd rather not, if you don't mind.



Fair enough. **Could you at least tell me whether you fly the same type?**



Same family. That's as far as we go.

5.



Manchester was their alternate.



Can I ask why they chose it?



The wind forecast was better there than at Glasgow.

6.



They tried Edinburgh after Manchester said no.



Could you tell me what happened there?



Another windshear warning. They went around again.

7.



I've had a few nights I'd rather forget.



Would you be willing to tell me about one of them?



Maybe after another drink.

8.



The margin was the real problem.



Do you know how small it actually was?



363 kilos on landing. About a third of their final reserve.

3.2. Как так вышло - и вопрос с подтекстом

1.



They carried more fuel than the basic plan required.



So how did the refusal leave them so short of fuel?



It sent them to Edinburgh, and the go-around there cost them a lot.

2.



Manchester was on their flight plan.



What led to Manchester saying no?



According to the AAIB, a breakdown in communication inside the airport.

3.



They swapped Glasgow for Manchester in Pisa.



What made them change the plan?



A better wind forecast.

4.



Newcastle was closer, and the wind there was lower.



Couldn't they have gone there instead?



They could have. The report says they didn't even consider it.

Отрицательный вопрос: «а разве не могли?»

5.



And then they went back to Manchester.



Wasn't that the airport that had refused them?



Same one. This time with a Mayday.

6.



They didn't go back to Prestwick a third time.



How come they didn't try again?



Their procedures ruled it out after two windshear go-arounds.

7.



The whole of Scotland was getting hammered by the storm.



Didn't they know that before they left Pisa?



They knew about the storm. Nobody knew exactly how the evening would go.

8.



In the end they landed below final reserve.



How did the flight back to Manchester leave them below it?



It needed about 2,800 kilos with the reserve. They had about 2,100.

3.3. С вами такое бывало?

1.



Has anything like that ever happened to you?



An alternate refusing us? Once, years ago. With much more fuel left.

2.



Once, years ago. We went somewhere else.



What was it that made you go somewhere else?



The wind. It was the only one nearby with a decent wind.

3.



Diversions are part of the job.



Have you ever had to divert in weather like that?



A few times. Never with fuel that low.

4.



We had plenty of fuel and good weather at the next airport.



So was your situation anything like theirs?



Only in that we lost an option.

5.



We weren't counting on one approach working.



What was different about your case, then?



Time and fuel. We had both.

6.



Most crews would have stayed fixed on Manchester too.



Is that you talking, or the report?



Me. The report is kinder to the system than I am.

7.



Crews fix on their first plan more often than you'd think.



Is that something you've seen yourself, or just what the report says?



Seen it myself. Twenty-odd years of it.

8.



I've had some long nights in the cockpit.



Have you ever dealt with anything like this?



Not with so little fuel and so many approaches failing.

3.4. А на их месте?

1.



After Edinburgh, they had to decide where to go.



What would you have done?



I'd have wanted to look at every airport still available.

2.



The captain chose Manchester.



Would you have chosen it too?



Possibly. I'd need the full picture before claiming I'd have done better.

3.



Newcastle was closer, but they didn't consider it.



Wouldn't you have at least considered it?



I'd like to think so. Easy to say from a bar stool.

4.



They discussed a Mayday before Edinburgh but didn't declare it then.



Would you have declared it earlier?



Maybe. It depends on how doubtful the landing looked at that point.

5.



All 177 people landed safely, but with very little fuel.



How would you have felt as a passenger?



If I'd known the fuel figures? Not great.

6.



Another approach at Edinburgh was a hard call.



Where would you have gone instead?



Somewhere with a better wind - if I'd had the fuel to get there.

7.



They declared the fuel Mayday in the end.



When would you have declared it?



Once I expected to land below final reserve. The question is when that became clear.

8.



They knew things could get worse after another go-around.



Wouldn't you have been terrified?



Busy first. Terrified later, probably.

3.5. Всё вместе - без подсказок

1.



I've read the report. He's only seen the summary.



If you don't mind me asking, what surprised you most?



That Manchester refused them after taking nineteen other diversions.

2.



They'd checked the weather and carried extra fuel.



So what led to them arriving with so little?



A lot more flying than planned - a refusal, a diversion and another go-around.

3.



Once our alternate couldn't take us either.



How did you deal with that?



We found another airport while we still had plenty of fuel.

4.



Newcastle had only 22 knots.



Couldn't they have gone there?



They could have. They just didn't look at it.

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Crews get fixed on their first plan.



Is that your experience or the report talking?



Both. I've seen it, and the report says so too.

6.



The fuel margin at Manchester was tiny.



Wouldn't you have wanted another option?



Of course. By then they had very little room for anything else to go wrong.

7.



Nobody recorded the call at the airport.



Do you know who actually made the decision?



Not exactly. We know who passed the refusal on, but not how it was reached.

8.



It's easy to have a better plan from a bar stool.



Would you have made the same decision in the cockpit?



Honestly? I'd like to think I'd have checked every option.