

Tuesday English News Report

Only mainlanders responsible for air rage?

Broadcast Date: 10th March

In an **era** of mass air transportation and tight travel space, you get air rage incidents every day. Everyone gets upset on a plane at one time or another, so race, ethnicity, nationality or **celebrity** status hardly matters. But somehow, we in Hong Kong, and by that I include my own newspaper, have decided that every such incident involving **unruly** mainland travellers, even if it's **run-of-the-mill** non-story like the mainland couple who got kicked off a Cathay plane because their three-year-old wouldn't **buckle up**, is a newsworthy item.

That makes it look like only mainland Chinese are prone to in-air misbehaviour.

So let me tell you a story about this mainland **peasant** - ha ha! - who insisted on travelling with his pig. The animal **defecated**, howled and rushed down an aisle, knocking down passengers and had to be forcibly removed from the plane.

Well, that is actually a true story except it happened last November in the US aboard an US Airways flight. A woman passenger was allowed to bring her pig on board as an "emotional support animal" under US Department of Transportation guidelines. Unfortunately, the animal became very **disruptive**, including answering the call of nature, and had to be removed.

Oh, how about that infamous first-time Chinese passenger on board a domestic flight from Hangzhou to Chengdu who **yanked** open an emergency exit "to get some fresh air" because "doors don't matter". At least he was an inexperienced traveller.

In August 2010, JetBlue flight attendant Steven Slater claimed on the plane's public address system that he was being abused by a passenger and that he would quit. He grabbed two beers and took off by deploying an evacuation slide from an exit door. A police SWAT team arrested him at his home.

You want some **hilarious** stories? Google air rage and Alec Baldwin, Naomi Campbell, Snoop Dogg or Bjork. Mainlanders are hardly the worst offenders.



Mainland mother leaves cabin after heated argument with passengers and crew

1. What do you think?

2. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from the box.

era	run-of-the-mill	defecate	hilarious
celebrity	buckle up	disruptive	
unruly	peasant	yanked	

1. The student was very _____. He shouted in class and got so excited he began to run around the room.
2. A _____ is somebody who comes from a village and knows very little about city life. If we call someone this nowadays, it implies that person is badly educated and impolite.
3. The comedy show was _____. I laughed so much I nearly split my sides.
4. When you get into a car, you must _____, even if you are sitting in the back. If the car crashes, it could save your life.
5. He _____ the window open so hard he broke it.
6. An _____ person is someone who does not control himself and is disruptive. Teachers do not like students like this.
7. Some owners let their dogs _____ on the pavement and then don't bother to clean up the mess. It's disgusting!
8. A _____ is a famous person.
9. The restaurant we went to was nothing special – _____. (meaning it was not special and very ordinary).
10. A period of time marked by a distinctive character. The Roman _____ changed the face of Europe dramatically.

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