



- 1 Read the text. One sentence is missing in each of the paragraphs. Mark the position where it should be inserted.

## Baggage handler saved by his mobile phone

In December 2005, a 55-year-old baggage handler was trapped in the hold of an Airbus A330 at Dublin airport. The aircraft, with 325 passengers on board, had pushed back and begun taxiing towards the runway. The aircraft was bound for Los Angeles. Luckily, the baggage handler was able to use his mobile phone to call his company representative who then alerted the air traffic controllers. The cargo hold door was opened and the baggage handler released.

The incident occurred because the baggage handler, who was the leader of the team loading baggage for that flight, had entered the hold at the last minute to move some baggage. Not realizing that he was still inside, one of his colleagues shut the cargo hold door and gave the 'thumbs up' signal that the flight was ready to depart. The aircraft was cleared to push back and commence taxiing. It was only when the engines powered up that the baggage handler realized he was trapped.

The baggage handler was not injured though he was in a state of shock. It was thanks to the fact that he was carrying his mobile phone that he was able to raise the alarm and save himself from the traumatic ordeal of a transatlantic flight. In it, they recommended that procedures relating to last-minute adjustments or removals of items from the hold be tightened up.

While this incident was unusual, it is not the first time that it has happened. In March 2005, a trapped baggage handler flew for almost two hours from Chicago to Philadelphia in the cargo hold. In 2001, another trapped baggage handler flew all the way from Dallas to Puerto Vallarta, a three-hour flight. In both cases the men tried to escape before take-off by banging on the cargo door. They were not as fortunate as the man involved in the incident at Dublin airport.

Paragraph 1: They immediately informed the pilots who returned to the stand.

Paragraph 2: During push back the lights in the cargo hold remained on.

Paragraph 3: The final report on this incident was issued by investigators in April 2007.

Paragraph 4: In some cases the problem has not been discovered until a plane has landed.

- 2 Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you think the two baggage handlers mentioned in the last paragraph survived their flights?
- 2 Would the Dublin airport baggage handler have been able to survive if the aircraft had taken off?
- 3 If a baggage handler can survive, what might the person's physical condition be on arrival?
- 4 How can such incidents be prevented?