

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – TOXIC AIRPORT (ca 6 min)

You are going to hear a news report about the environmental and health risks of an airport in Los Angeles.

I) Before listening, read the list of vocabulary and try to guess what the three phrases below might mean (1-2 sentences each).

Vocabulary:

toxic zone	– an area polluted by dangerous substances
fumes	– the gases which are produced by cars, airplanes,...
jet	– an airplane which is driven by a jet engine, not propellers
residents	– the people who live in the area
runway	– the lane where airplanes land or take off
sinus	– an inner part of the nose
patio	– terrace behind the house
prop plane	– propeller airplane
soot	– dust which comes from burning fuels
magnified	– made stronger
to obtain results	– to get the chance to see facts
to give a notice	– to warn about the dangers
exposed to a significant risk of	– very likely to get (an illness)
to abide by regulations	– to obey all the legal requirements
to sympathize	– to understand somebody's concerns
to reinstate a ban	– to forbid something again

- *within federal guidelines*

- *a 1 in 100 000 chance of getting cancer*

- *cut down on toxic fumes*

II) Now listen to the recording; you are going to hear the recording twice; take notes while listening and then answer the questions below (2-3 sentences each):

1. What's the difference between prop planes and private jets in terms of pollution, and how has the number of jet operations changed in the past year?
2. According to the residents, why are private jets not banned from Santa Monica Airport?
3. What does the new environmental study reveal about the situation at Santa Monica Airport, and what might that mean for residents?
4. According to the environmental attorney, why would it be better for residents if the airport was operated by a private company instead of the city?
5. How have jet operators and pilots reacted to the residents' complaints, and how content are the residents with these reactions?

III) Free writing: choose two of the three tasks and write 180-200 words each:

- a) Imagine you are a resident of the area near Santa Monica Airport. Write a letter to a local politician asking him for support. Include the reason for your writing (health situation...) a description of the situation, the results of the mentioned environmental study and any arguments that might persuade the politician.

- b) A young couple with two small children are planning to move into a new home near Santa Monica Airport. The father thinks that the house is nicer and bigger than the place where they are living at the moment, and it is affordable. However, the mother is concerned about possible health risks to them and their children. Write a discussion between the two.

- c) Think of a potential health risk in the area where you live. Describe the problem, including the reasons and the affected persons, and propose a possible solution.