

3A Chan Chak Sang**Book Title : Ready for Take-off****Author : Gil Morgan****Publisher : Blake Education**

This book is about the job of a pilot and the history of aircrafts. An aircraft pilot is an aviator who actively and directly operates the directional flight controls of an aircraft while in flight. While other members of a flight crew, such as flight engineers, navigators, or any other people, are involved in the direct flight operations of an aircraft, whether it is a fixed wing airplane, rotary-wing, powered, or unpowered, are also considered "aviators". They are not pilots and do not command a flight or aircraft. Aircrew members who are not involved in operating the aircraft's flight systems such as cabin attendants and mechanics as well as ground crew are not generally classified as aviators.

An aeroplane is a powered, fixed-wing aircraft that is propelled forward by thrust from a jet engine or propeller. Airplanes come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and wing configurations. The broad spectrum of uses for airplanes includes recreation, transportation of goods and people, military, and research. Most airplanes are flown by a pilot on board the aircraft, but some are designed to be remotely or computer-controlled.

The book talks about the history of planes. In 1799, Sir George Cayley set forth the concept of the modern airplane. He was building and flying models of fixed-wing aircraft in 1803, and he built a successful passenger-carrying glider in 1853. Between 1867 and 1896 the German pioneer of human aviation Otto Lilienthal developed heavier-than-air flight. The Wright brothers flights in 1903 are recognized as "the first sustained and controlled heavier-than-air powered flight". Following WWI, aircraft technology continued to develop. Airplanes had a presence in all the major battles of

World War II. The first jet aircraft was the German Heinkel He 178 in 1939. The first jet airliner, the de Havilland Comet, was introduced in 1952. The Boeing 707, the first widely successful commercial jet, was in commercial service for more than 50 years, from 1958 to 2010.

There are different types of aircraft, like microlights, light aircraft, hot air balloons, business jets, seaplanes, cargo carriers, jumbo jets and military aircraft. The type of aircraft I like most is the Jumbo jets. Jumbo jets, like the Boeing 747 and Airbus A380, can fly long distances. They hold around 400-maximum 853 passengers, and fly all around the world. I like it because of its huge number of capacity and its cool design. Don't you think so? We always see some double-deck bus walking on the road, but there are also some double-deck planes in the world which are carrying a lot of passengers!

The most interesting progress of operating the aircrafts to me is communication with the control towers. Pilots use special code words to communicate with fellow pilots and control towers. The NATO Phonetic Alphabet assigns code words to the letters of the English alphabet. NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Correct pronunciation of the words over radio or telephone is vital. Like the pronunciation of letter "A" in NATO Phonetic Alphabet is "Alfa" and letter "B" is "bravo". What a difficult job to remember these words!

There are also some fun facts in the book which I think it is valuable for us to know. For example, the book told us that there are six million parts in the Boeing 747-400. Also, many planes have the function of the autopilot. Large, complex aircraft have autopilot controls. The autopilot system is part of an aircraft's electronic equipment. Autopilot controls are used to maintain altitude, climb, descend or turn — anything that a human pilot can do! They are very useful on long flights so that pilots can take a break.

I think that being a pilot is a holy job. Controlling a plane is just like taking care of hundreds of passengers' life. If I see a pilot, I must say thank you to him because he has spent so much time on learning how to control a plane well that we can have a safe trip by plane. I love the layout of the book. It is easy for us to read since there are a lot of pictures and photos about the contents in the book which can attract us to read and there are not too many words in the book. I recommend this book to those who are interested in the history of flying and the job of being a pilot.