

Hueber Lektüren

Planespotting

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VORSCHAU

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Contents

Chapter 1	At the airport	4
Chapter 2	The picture	9
Chapter 3	Plane in danger	15
Chapter 4	Chuck Bolton	19
Activities		24
Glossary		32
Key		35

VORSCHAU

At the airport

Gary Kent is watching planes on a Thursday afternoon. He's sitting beside a road next to the airport. A big plane is taking off. It comes along the runway. The noise is loud. The plane takes off and flies over some trees near Gary. It's a 747 with a blue and yellow tail.

That's Lufthansa Flight 9745 to Bangkok, thinks Gary. There it goes!

Gary is thirteen. He and his family live near Sydney Airport. The planes come over their house. Gary's mother doesn't like them. 'They make a lot of noise,' she says. But Gary likes the noise. And he loves watching planes – he's a planespotter.

Gary likes to ride his bike to the road near the end of the runway. He sits there and watches planes take off and land. He takes a camera with him. He likes to take pictures of planes. He takes a small book and writes down the names of the planes. Gary knows all the planes, all the airlines and all the flights. The planes have the colours of the airlines on their tails – red and white for Qantas, blue and white for KLM, red, white and blue for British Airways... There are big 747s and A340s and small Learjets and Turboprops. Gary knows them all.

It's late in the afternoon. The sun is going down and the lights of the airport are coming on. The lights on the planes are coming on too.

Gary's mobile phone makes a noise. He takes it out and



looks at it. There's a message from his mother. *Come home for dinner.*

He looks at the time on his mobile phone. It's six forty-five. He has to go. He gets on his bike.

Then he thinks, *I want to watch another plane.*

A plane is taking off. Gary stops and watches it. Its tail is blue and green. It's a Pan Pacific plane.

That's Pan Pacific Flight 401, thinks Gary. It's a 747. It's going to Los Angeles.

The plane takes off. The noise is loud.

Then something falls from the plane. Gary sees it fall.

Hey, what's that? he thinks. *Is that a part of the plane?*

The thing falls to the ground. It lands in some trees and bushes near the road.

It's over there – in those trees.

Gary wants to see it. He gets off his bike and puts it on the ground. He walks into the bushes.

It's getting dark now, and it isn't easy to walk through the bushes.

It's near here, Gary thinks.

Then he comes to a high fence. He stops. There is a sign on the fence. It says AIRPORT. KEEP OUT.

Oh, no – I can't go in there. I can't get over the fence, he thinks. *But the thing from the plane is in there.*

He looks through the fence and into the bushes. But it's dark now and he can't see.

He takes out his camera and puts it up to the fence. He points the camera through the fence and takes a picture. There's a flash of light from the camera. In the flash, Gary sees something on the ground.

What is that? he thinks. *Is that it?*

Chuck Bolton

Who's going to listen to me? thinks Gary. What can I do?

Then he remembers a picture and a name. He goes back onto planewatching.com, the website for planespotters. He finds a picture of an Airbus A380. With the picture, there's a message from a planespotter in America:

Hi, planespotters! I'm Chuck Bolton and I live in El Segundo, near Los Angeles International Airport. There's a great place for watching planes near my house. Here's a picture of an Airbus A380 landing. They are big!

Chuck Bolton is a planespotter and he lives near Los Angeles International Airport.

Can Chuck Bolton help? I need to call him, thinks Gary. What's his phone number?

Gary goes onto Google and types 'Los Angeles phone numbers'.

He finds 'Los Angeles Yellow Pages – yellowpages.com'. He clicks on the website and it opens. Gary reads 'Find a Person'.

Yes, he thinks, I want to find a person. He clicks on 'Find a Person' and a new page opens. There's a box for 'First Name' and Gary types 'Chuck'. In the box for 'Last Name', he types 'Bolton'. In the box for 'City', he types 'El Segundo'. Then he clicks on 'Find'.

A new page opens up with one name on it – Bolton, Chuck (310) 555-9201.



Sydney, Australia, saves a plane. He sees a part fall from the plane and tells El Segundo planespotter Chuck Bolton about it. Chuck Bolton tells the airline and they tell the pilot about the landing gear. This information helps the pilot and he can land the plane. It is safe, thanks to the Australian planespotter.

That's me! thinks Gary. *And the plane is okay!*

Then Gary's mobile phone rings. He answers it. 'Hello?'

'Hello, is this Gary Kent?'

'Yes, it is.'

'Hello, Gary. My name is Amelia Norris. I'm from Pan Pacific Airlines.'

'Oh!' says Gary. 'Er – hello.'

'Gary, we want to thank you for helping us today. Our plane is on the ground at Los Angeles International Airport. It's safe. Thank you. The pilot of the plane wants to say thank you too. We want you to come to Los Angeles. We want to fly you here. Can you come?'

'Yes, yes!' says Gary. 'Well, I have to ask my mum and dad. They're in Canberra but they're coming home tomorrow.'

'How old are you, Gary?' asks Amelia Norris.

'I'm thirteen.'

'Thirteen!' she says.

'Can my mum and dad come to Los Angeles too?' asks Gary. 'And my brother?'

'Yes, they can,' says Amelia. 'You can bring your family.'

Gary smiles. *Thank you, Chuck Bolton, he thinks. Thank you, Doris from Dortmund. Pan Pacific Flight 401 is safe on the ground...and I'm going on a plane to Los Angeles!*

Chapter 2

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 11 and circle the correct answers.

1. What are the boys looking at?
a. a computer b. a camera c. a car
2. What is on the dining table behind the boys?
a. books b. toys c. plates

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

idea call hangs up level

1. 'Goodbye,' says Jill and then she _____ the phone.
2. When you pass the test, you can go up a _____.
3. I want to _____ Bill and ask him to come for dinner.
4. It is a good _____ to study for tests.

C. Listen to Track 4 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. Who does Russell talk to on his mobile phone?
a. his mother b. his girlfriend
2. In Gary's picture, what colour is the thing in the grass?
a. grey b. green
3. Who is the website planewatching.com for?
a. planespotters b. people who play computer games

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. Where are Mr and Mrs Kent going?
a. to Los Angeles b. to Canberra c. to Bangkok
2. What test does Gary have tomorrow morning?
a. maths b. French c. science
3. What does Russell do on the computer?
a. He studies. b. He uploads pictures.
c. He plays World of Warcraft.
4. At what time does Russell's mobile phone ring?
a. ten o'clock b. ten thirty c. ten forty-five

Chapter 4

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 22 and circle the correct answers.

- Where is this?
a. in a kitchen b. in a library c. on a plane
- What do you think Gary is doing?
a. reading about the plane b. doing his maths test
c. playing World of Warcraft

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

help international safe pilot

- Vince is going to watch the _____ football game. He wants Italy to win.
- The _____ sits at the front of the plane.
- The boy asked his mother to _____ him with his homework.
- It is good to feel _____ and dry inside when it is raining.

C. Listen to Track 6 on the CD and answer these questions.

- How many hours behind Sydney time is Los Angeles time?
a. seven b. seventeen
- What country does Chuck Bolton live in?
a. America b. England
- Where is Chuck Bolton when Gary calls him?
a. at work b. at home

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

- What plane is in the picture that Chuck Bolton put on the website?
a. a 747 b. a Learjet c. an Airbus A380
- Which International Airport does Chuck live near?
a. Los Angeles b. Bangkok c. Sydney
- What is the country code for the USA?
a. 1 b. 2 c. 3
- What does Chuck Bolton call Australia?
a. Up Over b. Down Under c. Down Over

Glossary

adj. adjective; *n.* noun; *prep.* preposition; *pron.* pronoun; *v.* verb

about /ə'baʊt/ <i>prep.</i>	über
airline /'eə,laɪn/ <i>n.</i>	Fluglinie
airport /'eə,pɔ:t/ <i>n.</i>	Flughafen
bark /bɑ:k/ <i>v.</i>	bellen
be asleep /bi: ə'sli:p/ <i>v.</i>	schlafen
box /bɒks/ <i>n.</i>	Kästchen
bush /bʊʃ/ <i>n.</i>	Busch
call /kɔ:l/ <i>v.</i>	anrufen
<i>n.</i>	Anruf
camera /'kæm(ə)rə/ <i>n.</i>	Fotoapparat
click /klɪk/ <i>v.</i>	anklicken
code //kəʊd/ <i>n.</i>	Nummer, Vorwahl
come on /kʌm ɒn/ <i>v.</i>	angehen
contact /'kɒntækt/ <i>v.</i>	in Kontakt treten
danger /'deɪndʒə/ <i>n.</i>	Gefahr
dark /dɑ:k/ <i>adj.</i>	dunkel
dial /'daɪəl/ <i>v.</i>	wählen
fall /fɔ:l/ <i>v.</i>	(herunter-)fallen
fence /fens/ <i>n.</i>	Zaun
find /faɪnd/ <i>v.</i>	finden
flight /flaɪt/ <i>n.</i>	Flug
fly /flaɪ/ <i>v.</i>	fliegen
get off /get ɒf/ <i>v.</i>	absteigen
get on /get ɒn/ <i>v.</i>	aufsteigen
ground /graʊnd/ <i>n.</i>	Boden
guard /gɑ:d/ <i>n.</i>	Wachmann
hang up /hæŋ ʌp/ <i>v.</i>	einhängen
idea /aɪ'diə/ <i>n.</i>	Idee
important /ɪm'pɔ:tnt/ <i>adj.</i>	wichtig