

Weekly Academic Review

Flying Solo

Week 8

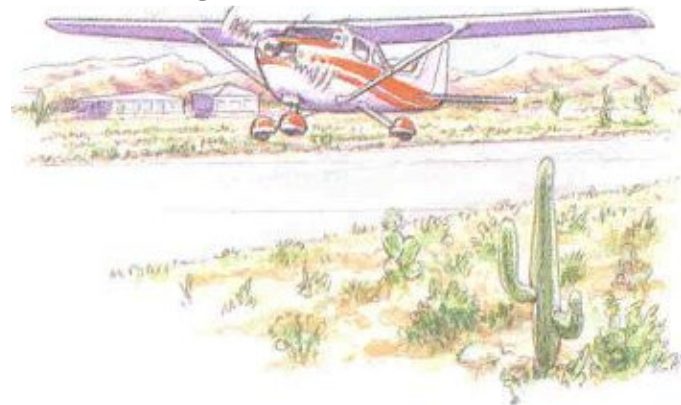
Directions: Read to find out what Charlie had to learn before his first solo flight. Mark the location of the answers on any question that labels which paragraph the answer can be found.

1 "I've wanted to be a pilot ever since I can remember," Charlie told Pat on their way from the hangar. "My grandfather told me stories about some of the heroic pilots he knew during the war. Growing up in the Southwest, I knew many people who worked in gloomy silver mines. I wanted to be high above the earth, not underneath it.

2 "My aunt had a small plane that she kept at a tiny airport near us. She used to take me up in it, but never as much as I wanted. She never let me fly the plane.

3 "When I was just sixteen, I took my first flying lessons. During the very first lesson, my instructor let me fly the plane a little. It was scary and thrilling at the same time. Even though I had watched my aunt, I was confused by all the controls and by the communications from the control tower. On the ground, I had a hard time steering with my feet at the same time that I controlled the wheel and throttle with my hands.

4 "At the time, it seemed as if there was so much to learn. I had to work on taking off, landing, and making turns. I had a lot of trouble with turns and slowing the plane without losing altitude.



5 "Before I knew how important they were, I was annoyed with all the preflight checks. At the time, I couldn't believe how much there was to do. I had to learn to inspect the flaps and hinges, check the fuel level, and make sure that no water had condensed in the gas tanks. My instructor made sure that I checked the engine for oil leaks, cracked hoses, and bird nests. After all that, there was more, including the landing gear, the tail assembly, and the lights. Once inside, I checked all the instruments and each step of the flight plan. Little did I know how easily I'd be able to do all this later on.

6 "I'll never forget my first solo flight. I was scared to death, but I didn't want anyone to realize it. My hands were blocks of ice as I climbed into the cockpit after completing my preflight check. When the control tower cleared me for takeoff, my heart became a rocket.

7 "Somehow the plane rose smoothly into the air. I was amazed at how quiet it was alone in the plane. I really did feel as if I owned the sky.

8 "It seemed as if it was only a few seconds before I had completed my tricky maneuvers. In the next minute, I began a descent. Before I knew it, I was taxiing to a stop. Suddenly I remembered that there were other people in the universe. My aunt and my instructor came running out to the plane to congratulate me.

9 "I guess that instructor did a pretty good job because I passed my written exam with flying colors. Then I logged enough solo hours to get my private pilot's license.

10 "You know, Pat, it's funny, but I still feel as excited about flying as I did on that first solo. I'm just a little less frightened."

Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. lever that regulates the flow _____ of fuel to an engine (Par. 3)
2. height above the earth _____ (Par. 4)
3. parts put together _____ (Par. 5)
4. planned movements _____ (Par. 8)
5. downward movement _____ (Par. 8)

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared directly. Unlike a simile, the word like or as is not used to make the comparison. Check the correct meaning of the metaphor, my hands were blocks of ice, from paragraph 6.

6. _____ I was nervous.
_____ My hands had been replaced by large ice cubes.

Check the correct meaning of the metaphor, *my heart became a rocket*, in paragraph 6.

7. _____ My heart turned into a rocket.
_____ I was frightened.

Working with Words

The suffix **-y** can mean "full of" or "like." Write the words from the story that have the suffix **-y** and are formed from these base words.

1. scare _____ (Par. 3)
2. assemble _____ (Par. 5)

Write the words that have the suffix **-y** and the meanings below.

3. full of gloom _____
4. full of fun _____

Reading and Thinking

1. Check the sentence that tells the reason Charlie was scared in the story.
_____ Charlie had never been in an airplane before.
_____ Charlie had not flown solo before.
_____ The airplane had not been checked.
2. Why do you think Charlie forgot there were other people in the universe?

List two facts that lead you to conclude that Charlie had a good first instructor.

3. _____
4. _____

Write the word that best completes each sentence.

5. The first pilots must have been very _____.
quiet heroic scary
6. Before Pat starts the engine, she does a _____ check.
beginner's altitude preflight

Learning to Study

Many kinds of entry words can be found in most dictionaries. Match the types of entries with the correct examples.

1. _____ proper noun a. -ly
2. _____ prefix b. learn the ropes
3. _____ suffix c. Ohio
4. _____ abbreviation d. mis-
5. _____ idiom e. Dr.