

## Starting Up 1

How much did you spend on flights last year?  
How much of that was for work and how much for leisure?

## Starting Up 2

Look at the title of the article.

- 1 Which country are the companies we are going to read about based in?
- 2 Which word describes a specific type of aeroplane?
- 3 How much does Mr Diller spend on air travel?

Now read the article quickly and answer the questions that follow.

## Diller leads US rankings for personal corporate jet spend with \$4,500 a day

<sup>1</sup>Barry Diller, the *billionaire* media *mogul*, has taken more than \$12m of personal flights on a company-owned private jet since 2005, making him the biggest spender among US executives who use corporate aircraft for fare-free holidays and other non-business trips.

<sup>2</sup>The Corporate Jet Files, an analysis by the Financial Times of 1,000 securities filings, has found that a significant number of corporations are still *footing the bill* for executives to take personal flights on *corporate* jets, sometimes accompanied by family and friends.

<sup>3</sup>Mr Diller is *chairman* of Expedia, the online travel agent, and InterActiveCorp, the internet conglomerate behind dating app Tinder. In 2014, the most recent year for which filings are available, the bill for his personal use of a jet *co-owned* by the companies was \$1.7m, or *roughly* \$4,500 a day.

<sup>4</sup>The companies declined to comment. But in a recent securities filing IAC said Mr Diller was “required to travel, both for business and personal purposes, on corporate aircraft”.

<sup>5</sup>Many of the companies contacted by the FT cited security concerns as a reason for demanding that executives use corporate jets even for personal travel.

<sup>6</sup>The biggest *spenders* are dominated by groups where the *founder* or a family *exerts significant control*.

<sup>7</sup>Mark Zuckerberg, who billed Facebook for a combined \$1.2m of personal flights in 2013 and 2014, is one of the top-10 spenders in both years. Rupert Murdoch and son James together spent almost \$1m flying on the Twenty-First Century Fox jet over the same *period*.

<sup>8</sup>Since 2006, US companies have been *required to disclose* the cost of personal flights as a form of *remuneration*.



### Vocabulary 1

Look at the italicised words in paragraphs 1-3. Which words mean:

- 1 approximately
- 2 owned by two or more people
- 3 someone who has \$1,000,000,000 or more
- 4 a businessperson who has great influence in a particular industry
- 5 paying for something
- 6 belonging to a company
- 7 someone who directs the work of a committee or organization

### Reading Comprehension 1

Now answer these questions on the article.

- 1 What is Mr Diller's first name?
- 2 How much has he spent on personal flights since 2005?
- 3 Which two companies is Mr Diller chairman of?
- 4 What type of companies are they?
- 5 In 2014 how much did Diller bill the companies for in terms of flights?
- 6 What did these companies say when the Financial Times contacted them?

### Vocabulary 2

Look at the italicised words in paragraphs 4-7. Which words mean:

- 1 make something publicly known, especially after it has been kept secret
- 2 someone who uses money
- 3 when something is needed or someone is obliged to do something
- 4 the pay you give someone for something they have done for you
- 5 a particular length of time with a beginning and an end
- 6 someone who establishes a business, organization, school etc
- 7 has the power or influence to make things happen

### Reading Comprehension 2

Now answer these additional questions on the article.

- 1 Who put together *The Corporate Jet Files*?
- 2 What do some companies say is the reason their CEO's fly on private jets?
- 3 How much did Mark Zuckerberg spend on flights in 2013 and 2014?
- 4 What is the name of Rupert Murdoch's son?
- 5 Which jet do they fly on?
- 6 Did they spend more or less than Mark Zuckerberg?

### Grammar

Complete the sentences below with the past simple form of a verb in the box.

decide	be	bill	spend	cite
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- 1 The bill for his personal use of a jet *co-owned* by the companies \_\_\_\_\_ \$1.7m.
- 2 The companies \_\_\_\_\_ to comment.
- 3 Many of the companies contacted by the FT \_\_\_\_\_ security concerns.
- 4 Mark Zuckerberg \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook for \$1.2m.
- 5 Rupert Murdoch and son James together \_\_\_\_\_ almost \$1m.

### Discussion

Should the CEO's of companies travel by private jet?  
Should the companies pay for their CEO's personal travel as well as business travel?

**KEY**

**Starting Up 2**

- 1 US
- 2 jet
- 3 \$4,500 a day

**Vocabulary 1**

- 1 roughly
- 2 co-owned
- 3 billionaire
- 4 mogul
- 5 footing the bill
- 6 corporate
- 7 chairman

**Reading Comprehension 1**

- 1 Barry
- 2 \$12m
- 3 Expedia and InterActiveCorp
- 4 an online travel agent and an internet company
- 5 \$1.7m
- 6 nothing - they did not wish to comment

**Vocabulary 2**

- 1 disclose
- 2 spender
- 3 required
- 4 remuneration
- 5 period
- 6 founder
- 7 exerts

**Reading Comprehension 2**

- 1 The Financial Times
- 2 security concerns
- 3 \$1.2m
- 4 James
- 5 Twenty-First Century Fox jet
- 6 a little less - \$1m over the same period

**Grammar**

- 1 was
- 2 declined
- 3 cited
- 4 billed
- 5 spent

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