

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area, so I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags never showed up. She smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "has your plane arrived yet?"

During the heat of the space race in the 1960s, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration decided it needed a ball point pen to write within the zero gravity confines of its space capsules. After considerable research and development, the Astronaut Pen was developed at a cost of about \$1 million. The pen worked and also enjoyed some modest success as a novelty item back here on earth. The Soviet Union, faced with the same problem, used a pencil.

"Good morning everyone and welcome aboard XYZ flight 458. Before we take off, I'd like to call your attention to some safety features we have on board. Each seat on board comes with a safety information card. We'd like you to read through this very carefully in preparation for the mid-flight test later on. I'd also like to call your attention to the smartly dressed flight attendants standing before you who will point out exits and other aircraft equipment. There are six exits on board, two at the back, two in the middle and two at the front. Should there be a sudden loss of cabin pressure; oxygen masks will automatically drop from above. Place these over your mouth and nose and begin breathing normally. Adults, put your own mask on before helping a child or an adult who's acting like a child. Once we have reached a comfortable altitude the captain will turn off the seat belt sign and you will be free to move about the cabin. If you need to use the bathroom we have six on board, three forward and three aft. If you don't know what forward and aft means, you're obviously in trouble since we are serving drinks throughout the flight. We'd like to remind you that this is a no-smoking flight and to ensure this, smoke detectors are installed in all lavatories. Federal law prohibits tampering with this device or with the hidden camera. Photographs will be available, upon request, at the end of the flight. We'll be showing two movies on today's flight. Our first is entitled The Hijacking of Flight 458 [this flight's number], followed by Jet Crash '98. Both movies are based on real-life events as told by XYZ flight attendants. For the moment, sit back, relax, and enjoy the flight, as me and the rest of the crew go below deck to pilfer through your luggage."



A pilot's bad day at the office!