



Boeing: Higher and Higher

Listening Questions 1:

1. In what industry did William Boeing make a fortune?
2. Who was the Boeing Company's first customer?
3. What model airplane was the first modern passenger airliner?
4. Which airline used to be a subsidiary of Boeing?

Listening Questions 2:

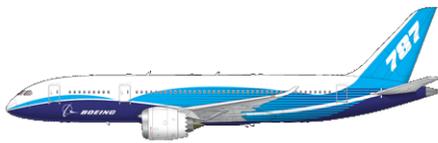
1. What are the 2 main types of Boeing customers?
2. How many employees does the company have?
3. In 2010, what was the total value of contracts that the US government awarded Boeing?
4. How long has Boeing been the supplier of Air Force One aircrafts?

Transcript 1:

William Boeing, the founder of the Boeing Company, made a fortune in the timber industry in Washington state before he dreamed of designing and building airplanes. He founded the Pacific Aero Products Company in Seattle in 1916 and changed the name to the Boeing Company the next year.

Boeing's first production order came from the United States Navy after the country entered World War I in 1917. The Navy ordered 50 Model C airplanes which were used to train pilots. Over the next ten years, the company stayed in business thanks to government contracts with the military and the postal service.

In 1933, Boeing released the Model 247 which was the first modern passenger airliner. Boeing exclusively sold the planes to its subsidiary United Airlines. The government considered that practice monopolistic so the company was forced to split into 3 smaller companies: Boeing Airplane Company, United Airlines, and United Aircraft Corporation.



Transcript 2:

Boeing is currently the largest aerospace company in the world and it is based in Chicago. Its customers include airlines and the governments of 150 countries.

Boeing is organized into 2 major business units: Boeing Commercial Airplanes and Boeing Defense, Space & Security. The company has 170,000 employees spread across 70 countries and of those employees, 140,000 have college degrees and 35,000 have advanced degrees.

One of Boeing's largest customers is the US government. In 2010, the company received about \$19.5 billion worth of contracts from the government. The airplane that transports the American president is designated Air Force One and Boeing has supplied those aircrafts for over 50 years.