

Unit 1 ➤

1 Match the words in the box with their definitions.

capacity demand efficient expansion fuel hub merger

- 1 when two companies join to form one larger one: _____
- 2 an increase in size: _____
- 3 the amount that can fit inside a building, space or container: _____
- 4 something such as oil that produces power when it is burnt: _____
- 5 the central and most important part of a system or activity: _____
- 6 the amount of a product that people want: _____
- 7 working well, without wasting time, money or energy _____

2 Read the article quickly and find and underline the following information.

- 1 The percentage increase in air travel in July.
- 2 One type of airline cost that is rising.
- 3 The name of a new industrial area outside of Beijing.
- 4 The amount of money that LATAM will spend on its aircraft.
- 5 The two airlines that merged to form LATAM.

3 Read the article carefully. Which statement is the best summary of the article?

- 1 Air travel is increasing at the moment, but will decrease later in the year because of rising costs. China Southern Airlines is building a new departure lounge at Baiyun International Airport. Meanwhile, LATAM Airlines is buying new planes and will soon become the world's largest airline.
- 2 Air travel is increasing, and airlines are getting more efficient in filling seats on planes. At Baiyun International Airport, China Southern Airlines is making life easier for people who have connecting flights. Meanwhile, LATAM Airlines is improving the passenger experience on all its flights.
- 3 Air travel is increasing, and airlines are buying more planes to meet the growing demand. China Southern Airlines has had problems moving its hub airport from Guangzhou to Beijing. Meanwhile, LATAM Airlines has changed the interiors of its aircraft to provide extra legroom for all its passengers.

4 Complete the table with words from the article.

Noun	Verb
1 _____	expand
2 _____	grow
3 _____	increase
4 _____	develop
strength	5 _____
6 _____	connect

5 Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Check your answers in the article.

at between for from in (x2) of to

- 1 According _____ the IATA, there was a 6.2 percent growth in air travel this summer.
- 2 Airlines are getting better _____ filling the seats on each flight.
- 3 The growth _____ air travel is reflected in the expansion plans of two leading airlines.
- 4 Passengers who connect _____ international to domestic flights no longer need to collect their baggage and check it in again.
- 5 The Xiong'an New Area is about 50 miles southwest _____ Beijing.
- 6 LATAM Airlines will invest \$400 million _____ improving the interiors of its aircraft.
- 7 LATAM Plus passengers will be able to pay more _____ extra legroom.
- 8 LATAM Airlines was formed from a merger _____ Chile's LAN Airlines and Brazil's TAM Airlines.

6 Choose the correct option in italics to complete the sentences about the text.

- 1 Airline fuel costs are becoming *higher* / *highest*.
- 2 Airlines are becoming *less efficient* / *more efficient* at using their capacity to meet demand.
- 3 The main reason for the growth in travel was *lower* / *lowest* ticket prices.
- 4 China Southern is one of the world's *largest* / *more large* airlines.

Leading airlines planning to expand

According to the IATA (International Air Transport Association), there was a 6.2 percent growth in air travel this summer. As well as air travel growing overall, airlines are also getting better at filling the seats on each flight. "The industry posted another month of solid traffic growth, and airlines are becoming more efficient in terms of using their capacity to meet demand," said IATA Director General Alexandre de Juniac. Lower ticket prices were the main reason for the growth in travel, but de Juniac added a warning for the rest of the year: "Rising costs, particularly fuel, will likely limit the increase in travel we expect from lower airfares."

The growth in air travel is reflected in the expansion plans of two leading airlines, one Chinese and one Latin American. China Southern Airlines has moved to Terminal 2 of Guangzhou's Baiyun International Airport and offers an improved system. Passengers who connect from international to domestic flights no longer need to collect their baggage and check it in again. China Southern will also use Beijing's new international airport as its second hub. This new airport services the Xiong'an New Area, which is about 50 miles southwest of Beijing. In the future, this area will be the location of several big businesses. These developments will help strengthen the position of China Southern as one of the world's largest airlines.

Meanwhile, LATAM Airlines – Latin America's leading airline – is investing \$400 million in improving the interiors of its aircraft. For long-haul routes there will be fully flat seats in Business class, and in Economy class there will be fast-charging USB ports and large touchscreens on the seat backs. All flights will have a strong wi-fi connection, and LATAM Plus passengers will be able to pay more for priority check-in and extra legroom. LATAM Airlines has gone from strength to strength since it was formed from a merger between Chile's LAN Airlines and Brazil's TAM Airlines in 2012.