Zadanie 4.
Long rumoured and joked about, the so-called stand-up airplane seat has now emerged from the drawing board and the factory into the bright lights. The introduction of the SkyRider seat was easily the most talked about event of a recent trade show in Phoenix, Arizona. The company advertises the seat as suitable for short flights within the country, and if the idea proves a workable solution, the seats will also be used for international flights of up to four hours.

What is the SkyRider like? It is a tight fit. With three SkyRiders in a row, passengers squeeze in and rest on small raised seats as if half-seated, half-standing. Once in a seat, passengers have enough room to move their arms relatively freely. As for the legroom though, it doesn’t sound all that grand. Instead of the 32-inch average coach seat now, the future holds 24 inches at best.

An Italian aircraft seat manufacturer said the SkyRider had undergone extensive testing and would be able to meet all safety standards. “The passenger’s body,” as the company describes it, “assumes a comfortable, dynamic and healthy position.” Although low-budget airlines are looking forward enthusiastically to any new development that cuts down on costs, they’ve expressed concerns about emergency evacuations from planes with passengers crammed into such tight spaces. They claim that because the seats are high, people on board may have a tough time in a crash.

The new seat is being promoted as an option for airlines that might want to use space in any given airplane more profitably. A Boeing 737, for example, could be configured with 16 business class seats, 66 standard class seats and 98 SkyRiders. The concept is to allow for an extra class of seating with very low fares. There is a segment of the market that this seat will cater to.

adapted from International Herald Tribune, September 22, 2010

Zadanie 5.
Should schools be allowed to decide what their students eat? We asked a few people for their opinion. Here is what they said.

Speaker 1
The opinion on whether something is healthy or not has changed often enough in the last few years to make one’s head spin. I’m also never entirely sure to what extent I should trust the figures given in reports. I can’t help feeling that medical research is chancy. And one’s personal preferences are sure to get in the way as well. If I’m a vegetarian, I’d rather other parents didn’t give their children meat. Will schools introduce this rule? I don’t think so. The problem is who decides what and how much of something is healthy.

Speaker 2
Certain foods are banned from school lunch boxes as part of the school’s healthy eating policy. It makes no difference however, because a lot of children dump their food in the playground bin as soon as they arrive at school. Some of them do without food at all because they think they have to slim. Others will simply not eat the healthy offering but sneakily buy crisps and snacks from the shop on their way to school. You can take a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.
Speaker 3
Enforcing a set of rules on what our children can and can’t eat seems ridiculous. Once something like this comes in, it creates the possibility for a whole host of other rules to make sure parents bring up healthy children. A detailed report of what they had for breakfast? What about weekends? Will school authorities come round and make sure children are still eating healthily? The only way to be absolutely sure would be to install cameras to watch children while they’re away from school, but I don’t think most of us would like that to happen.

Speaker 4
This is quite a tricky problem. Normally I would say that it’s up to the parents what goes into a child’s lunch box, but what about overweight parents who, by their lifestyle, are raising equally overweight children? I don’t think schools can be expected to stand by and watch these children becoming more and more unfit. If parents are irresponsible, somebody else has to do their job. After all, teenagers’ health and well-being are the teachers’ responsibility as well.

Speaker 5
When I was a kid healthy nutrition was part of our education. We learned the benefits of healthy eating and the consequences of too much sugar or fat in our diets. Now, it’s more important to excel in maths, physics or chemistry. The number of PE classes has also been reduced, which makes the situation even worse. To my mind, imposing a ban on snacks is a losing battle. Instead school authorities should revise their priorities and introduce obligatory classes on healthy lifestyle and nutrition, even at the cost of other subjects.

adapted from www.bbc.co.uk

Zadanie 6.

Journalist: Welcome to our studio, David. You’re well-known for your screenplays, but you’ve just had your debut novel published. Why did you write a book? Aren’t you paid better for your film scripts?
David: Yes, but books are more fun to write.
Journalist: Your debut novel is set during the military blockade of Leningrad. That seems pretty serious!
David: It’s an adventure book. There are a few acts of cruelty in there, but you don’t need to include many to show what was going on there. Anyway, I wrote what I wanted to write. With film scripts you report to twelve bosses and the producers and the studio executives. When you write a book, you’re on your own.
Journalist: You’re now writing a script for a film about a famous musician. How’s that going?
David: I love his music. I don’t want to mess it up. I’m going over it with his wife. She is very smart, but I didn’t know she had such a wonderful sense of humour. She’s got some great stories to tell about the last interesting period in American music.
Journalist: Who is going to play her in the film?
David: It would be wrong to cast a classic beauty because this woman isn’t. The musician was attracted to her because of her personality, not because she looked like a Brazilian supermodel. However, I don’t think it would be the best idea if she played herself.
Journalist: Now, let’s talk about the film that was a box office success a few years ago – I mean Troy, which was based on Homer’s work. Was rewriting Homer a challenge?
David: I’d never try it again. Drawing up the first draft took me three months. Then, for two years, it was constant rewriting with the director. It was the first time I was working on
a big movie. It was amazing to go to Mexico and see they’d built Troy and had all the replica of the ancient Greek warships. Actually, the movie was quite a challenge to make. They moved locations, one of the actors was injured. But I was happy with how the film turned out.

**Journalist:** I wonder if there’s anything you find difficult about being in the movie making business.

**David:** I don’t start writing until 11 p.m. and then I write till five in the morning. I don’t know why. Maybe it’s quieter then. I tend to have a hard time writing when the sun is up. I just don’t know the reason. Also, I get annoyed when actors make up their own lines, changing the original ones. Ed Robinson is really good at it, although, personally, I wouldn’t consider him a great actor.

**Journalist:** To change the subject – is there anything that you couldn’t live without?

**David:** Some of my friends couldn’t live without their sports cars. But that’s not like me at all. I live in a Hollywood apartment overlooking the hills, but I can easily imagine my life somewhere else. I love my stereo, though. My speakers are real monsters. They’re two meters high and should be in a recording studio, but I wouldn’t like to part with them.

**Journalist:** Thank you, David. We’ll be back after a short break.

*adapted from Metro*