



Section four – Language development

Functional English – Simple past

- 1 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verb in brackets.

A plane carrying 20 passengers heading for Busan (1) _____ (make) an emergency landing yesterday. The emergency (2) _____ (happen) after the pilot (3) _____ (report) a technical problem. The flight (4) _____ (depart) Seoul at 0700 and (5) _____ (fly) towards Busan. The flight (6) _____ (not reach) Busan, but (7) _____ (land) in Daegu shortly after 0800. The pilots (8) _____ (believe) there (9) _____ (be) a fire. The passengers (10) _____ (not be) hurt.

- 2 Complete the conversation with questions.

Journalist (1) _____ (you / make) an emergency landing?
Captain Because we thought we could smell smoke on the flight deck.
Journalist (2) _____ (you / notice) the problem?
Captain About 40 minutes after we left Seoul.
Journalist (3) _____ (you / decide) to land immediately?
Captain Yes, of course.
Journalist (4) _____ (you / land) at Daegu?
Captain We descended to Daegu because it was our closest airfield.
Journalist (5) _____ (the fire / start)?
Captain We're not really sure – perhaps it was an electrical fault.
Journalist (6) _____ (you / have) on board?
Captain We had 18 passengers with us.

- 3 Complete this newspaper report using the verbs in the box in the past simple tense.

avoid be (x2) blame cross detect happen issue not tell steer take place

Two planes were less than a mile away from a major catastrophe when a near-collision (1) _____ in thick clouds above London.
 A Boeing 747 and a Gulfstream jet only (2) _____ each other when their internal warning systems (3) _____ human error and automatically (4) _____ away from danger.
 The Boeing 747 (5) _____ heading towards Heathrow Airport from Japan and the business jet (6) _____ en route from Sardinia to Luton Airport when their paths (7) _____ over London.
 The incident (8) _____ in July last year near to Southam, and the Air Accident Investigation Branch today (9) _____ its report into the incident.
 It (10) _____ the pilot of the Boeing 747, who was flying “too fast” as the plane began its landing procedures and (11) _____ Air Traffic Control of his speed.

FIRE

Section one – Fire risk

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you think is the most common cause of fires on board planes?
- 2 What incidents caused by fire have you heard about?
- 3 What training have you received for dealing with fires?

2 You are going to read dangerous goods incident reports from the Australian Civil Aviation Authority. Read the stories, and match each incident with a story. Write A–H.

In which incident:

- 1 was fire started by metal touching metal? _____
- 2 did someone try to illegally ship explosive powder? _____
- 3 did the movement of the aircraft cause a fire? _____
- 4 did leakage cause a dangerous chemical reaction? _____
- 5 was a fire discovered after landing? _____
- 6 did heat from a chemical reaction start a fire? _____
- 7 did an explosion in the hold cause a plane to crash? _____
- 8 did a passenger accidentally bring a dangerous item on board? _____

DANGEROUS GOODS INCIDENTS REPORT

A On arriving at the destination, one passenger's bag had smoke coming out of it. A check by the airline revealed that a cigarette lighter had ignited and burned some of the clothing.

B An aircraft crashed due to a flammable liquid – possibly perfume – leaking in a passenger's stowed baggage. An ignition source set light to the liquid, causing an explosion.

C A courier driver arrived at a freight-forwarder's premises and asked to pick up a large crate which contained an explosive material in the form of a black powder. The owner knew it was prohibited, and was already in trouble with the police for collecting a briefcase full of fireworks from the airport two days earlier.

D Federal police were called to a baggage carousel at an international airport to check an unclaimed bag. An inspection of the contents revealed a fire extinguisher and a packet of sandwiches. It was finally discovered that a passenger had accidentally taken a taxi driver's bag from the car and didn't notice that he checked in an additional bag.

E A shipper consigned a wet-cell battery, undeclared as dangerous goods. Before consignment he emptied the acid out of the battery. But he also placed a brake cable in the same package. On arrival of the aircraft, smoke from the package set off a smoke detector because the brake cable had caused a short circuit of the terminals.

F In a cargo hangar, a container ignited. One item of cargo in the container was an oxygen generator, undeclared as dangerous goods. These devices produce oxygen by chemical reaction, which creates significant heat.

G Undeclared dangerous goods described as 'laundry products' contained a mixture of a chemical solution and corrosive solids. It was loaded on its side in the cargo compartment and the liquid leaked onto the solids, causing a very hot fire.

H While unloading baggage, ground staff noticed smoke rising from a suitcase. Investigation revealed that a quantity of matches had ignited due to vibration in the hold.

