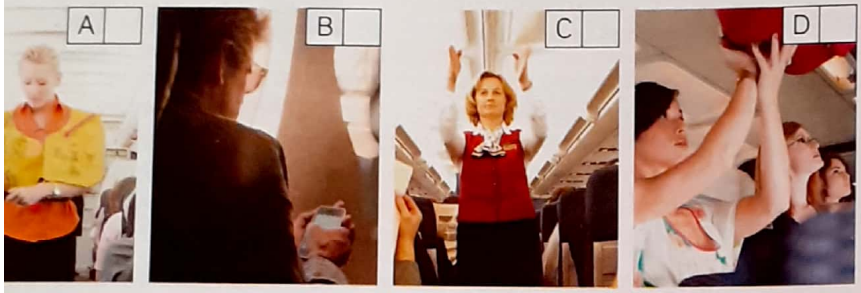
G narrative tenses, past perfect continuous; *so / such...that*
V air travel
P regular and irregular past forms, sentence rhythm

> I don't have a fear of flying, I have a fear of crashing.
> *Billy Bob Thornton, US actor and singer*

3A The truth about air travel

1 LISTENING & VOCABULARY air travel

a 2 2)) Listen to some in-flight announcements and match them to pictures A–D. What information or instructions are the passengers being given?



b Listen again. What word or phrase do the flight attendants use to mean...?

1 *small bags and cases*
2 the *cupboards above your seat*
3 *put on* your seat belt
4 *phones, tablets*, etc.
5 *the doors* where you can get out of the plane quickly if there is a problem
6 the *thing you have to put on* if the plane is going to land on the sea
7 to *blow air* inside something

c ➤ p.154 Vocabulary Bank *Air travel.*

2 READING

Air Travel: the inside story

Air Babylon is a best-selling book, co-written by Imogen Edwards-Jones and anonymous airline staff whose identities must remain secret. It tells the 'inside story' about flying and answers all these questions and many more...

- Is it really worth listening to the safety demonstration telling you how to put your life jacket on?
- Why is there usually a big mirror when you are going through Customs?
- Why can you sometimes smell roast chicken in a plane when they are serving you fish?
- Why do airport staff get annoyed with some passengers who ask for a wheelchair?



a Read the back cover of a book about air travel. Can you guess the answers to any of the questions?

b Now read the extract from *Air Babylon*. What are the answers to the questions, according to the text?

c Now read the extract again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false). Underline the part of the text that gave you the answer.

1 Most airline passengers believe that the life jacket could save their life.
2 The passengers who inflated their life jackets too early didn't survive.
3 Customs officers can see through the mirror in Customs.
4 Passengers are often caught by customs officers because of their body language.
5 Small birds are more dangerous for planes than big birds.
6 Passengers get confused because what they can smell is not on the menu.
7 There aren't enough wheelchairs for all the people who need them.
8 One flight attendant sometimes makes sarcastic comments about passengers who don't really need a wheelchair.

d Did you find any of the information surprising? Which? Do you believe it at all?

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Most airline passengers think it is laughable that a small yellow life jacket with a whistle will make any difference if the plane crashes into the sea. However, in some cases, like when a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 landed in the Indian Ocean in 1996, it did. Despite instructions from the cabin crew not to pre-inflate their lifejackets inside the plane, several passengers did. They were unable to escape the rising water inside the plane. But others, who followed the pilot's instructions, survived. So it is probably a good idea to look up from your magazine when the flight attendant is giving the safety demonstration.

Customs officers are watching everywhere. They are watching you from the moment you walk off the plane, while you are standing in Baggage Reclaim waiting for your bag, and especially when you come out the other side of Customs, which is when people who are trying to smuggle something finally let their guard down and get caught. The large two-way mirror in Customs, (behind which customs officers sit and watch) is part of that process. As you walk past, it makes you look taller and thinner. So you feel good about yourself and you relax and smile. That's when a customs officer suddenly appears and asks you to open your case…

Birds are one of the major problems for any airport when planes are taking off and landing. Any large bird can easily cause an accident. It flies into the engine, totally destroying itself and the machinery. Smaller birds are less of a problem. In some cases they can do some damage, but usually they are just roasted. When this happens, there is often such a strong smell of roast bird that passengers on the plane think that chicken is being cooked, and they are often surprised when they're given a choice of fish or beef at dinner!

Wheelchairs are a big problem for airline staff. Not only is there always a shortage of them for the people who really need them, but worse still, some of the people who request them often don't need them at all. I've lost count of the number of times I have pushed someone through the airport, taken them through Customs and Passport Control, got a porter to pick up their luggage, and then seen the person jump up in Arrivals and move quickly towards their waiting relatives. One flight attendant I know gets so annoyed when this happens that as soon as the passenger gets out of the chair she shouts to the other passengers, 'Ladies and gentlemen! Another miracle, courtesy of the airline industry! After years in a wheelchair, he walks again!' The passenger is normally so embarrassed that he (and it's usually a 'he') disappears as quickly as he can.

From Air Babylon by Imogen Edwards-Jones

3 MINI GRAMMAR *so / such...that*

a Look at these two sentences from the *Air Babylon* extract.

The passenger is normally **so embarrassed that** he disappears as quickly as possible.

When this happens there is often **such a strong smell**, of roast bird **that** passengers on the plane think that chicken is being cooked.

We often use *so / such...that* to express a consequence.

- Use *so* + adjective
  The flight was so bumpy (that) we all felt sick.
- Use *so* + adverb
  The taxi driver drove so quickly (that) we got to the airport on time.
- Use *so much / so many* + noun
  There was so much traffic that we nearly missed our flight.
- Use *such a* + adjective + single countable noun
  It was such a great hotel (that) we want to go back there next year.
- Use *such* + adjective + uncountable noun
  We had such terrible weather that we didn't really enjoy the holiday.
- Use *such* + adjective + plural noun
  They were such uncomfortable seats (that) I couldn't sleep at all.

b Complete the sentences with *so, so much | many, such,* or *such a.*

1 The flight was _____ long that I got really bored.
2 I had _____ noisy child sitting beside me that I couldn't sleep at all.
3 My suitcase was _____ heavy that I had to pay excess baggage.
4 I slept _____ badly on the flight from New York that the jet lag was worse than usual.
5 We were served _____ terrible food that I couldn't eat a thing.
6 There were _____ people at check-in that we had to queue for ages.
7 We had _____ luggage that we had to get another trolley.
8 The people we met on holiday were _____ nice people that we kept in touch with them.

4 SPEAKING

In pairs, ask and answer the questions.

1 How do you feel about flying?
2 How often do you fly? What for?
3 When was the last flight you took? Where did you fly to?
4 Have you ever…
   - been very delayed at an airport? How long for?
   - missed a flight? Why?
   - been stopped in Customs? Were you carrying anything that you shouldn't have?
   - had very bad turbulence on a flight? How did you feel? Was anyone on the flight injured?
   - flown long haul? Did you get jet lag?
   - flown or been upgraded to business class? What was it like?
   - been on a flight where there was an emergency? What happened?
   - sat next to a screaming baby on a flight (or a child that kept kicking your seat)? What did you do?

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5 LISTENING



a You are going to listen to an airline pilot and an air traffic controller talking on a radio programme. Before you listen, discuss questions 1–8 with a partner and imagine what the answers will be.

1 What weather conditions are the most dangerous when you are flying a plane?
2 Is turbulence really dangerous?
3 Which is more dangerous, taking off or landing?
4 Are some airports more dangerous than others?
5 What personal qualities does an air traffic controller need?
6 Is the job really very stressful?
7 Why is it important for air traffic controllers and pilots to speak English well?
8 Are there more men than women working as pilots and air traffic controllers?

b 2.7 Listen to the programme. How many of the questions did you answer correctly?

c Listen again for more detail and make notes for each of the questions.

d Which job would you prefer, to work as a pilot or as an air traffic controller? Why?



6 GRAMMAR
narrative tenses, past perfect continuous

a Read a newspaper story about an incident that happened during a flight. What exactly happened?

Last updated at 09:12

Nightmare over the Atlantic!

At 11.35 on January 13th 2012 British Airways flight BA 0206 [1]***took off / was taking off*** **from Miami to London.** It had been flying for about three hours, and was over the Atlantic, when suddenly a voice [2]*came out / had come out* of the loudspeakers: 'This is an emergency announcement. We may shortly have to make an emergency landing on water.'

Immediately panic [3]*broke out / was breaking out*. One passenger on the flight said, 'My wife and I looked at each other and we feared the worst. We imagined that we were about to crash into the Atlantic. It was awful. Everybody [4]*screamed / was screaming*.'

But about 30 seconds later the cabin crew started to run up and down the aisle saying that the message [5]*had been played / was being played* by accident, and that everything was OK. By this time a lot of the passengers were in tears, and [6]*tried / were trying* to get their life jackets out from under their seats.

Another passenger said, 'The captain didn't even say anything about it until just before we started to land and even then he didn't explain what [7]*happened / had happened*. It was very traumatic. Everybody was terrified. I can't think of anything worse than being told your plane's about to crash. It [8]*was / had been* the worst experience of my life.'

Later a British Airways spokesman [9]*said / had said*, 'A pre-recorded emergency announcement was activated by error on our flight from Miami to Heathrow. We would like to apologize to passengers on this flight.'

Adapted from the Daily Telegraph

b Read the story again and circle the right form of the verbs 1–9.

c Now look at two sentences about the story. What do you think is the difference between the two highlighted verbs?

The pilot was very experienced and had flown this route many times before.

When the announcement was made the plane had been flying for about three hours.

d ➤ p.136 Grammar Bank 3A. Learn more about narrative tenses and the past perfect continuous, and practise them.

e In pairs or groups, try to complete the two sentences in four different ways using the four narrative tenses.

1 The police stopped the driver because he…
2 I couldn't sleep last night because…

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7 PRONUNCIATION
irregular past forms, sentence rhythm

a Write the past simple of the following verbs in the chart according to the pronunciation of the vowel sound.

become ~~catch~~ cut drive fall fly hear
hide fight hold hurt keep leave lie read
ride say sleep tell think throw write

A /uː/	B /aɪ/	C /ɔː/	D /ɜː/
		caught	
E /əʊ/	**F /ʌ/**	**G /e/**	**H /eɪ/**
			became

b Look at the verbs in **a** again. Which ones have a past participle which is different from the past simple form? Write these past participles in the chart.

c 2 10 Listen and check. Then listen and repeat.

d 2 11 Listen to an extract from a narrative. Notice which are the stressed and unstressed words.



We were on a **flight** to **Tokyo**, and we'd been **flying** for about **five hours**. I was **reading** and my **wife** was **watching** a **film** when **suddenly** we **heard** a **very loud noise**. It **sounded** as if an **engine** had **exploded**. The **pilot didn't tell** us what had **happened** until **half** an **hour later**.

e Practise reading the extract with the right rhythm.

8 SPEAKING

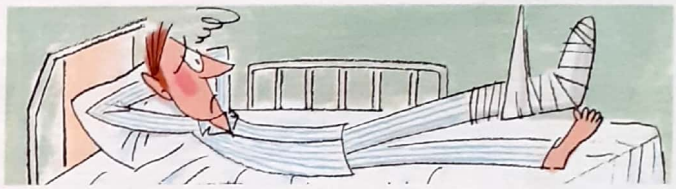
a ➤ **Communication** *Flight stories* **A** *p.105* **B** *p.110.* Read a newspaper story. Then imagine you were a passenger on the plane, and tell your partner the story.

b You are going to tell an anecdote. The story can either be true or invented. If it's invented, you must try to tell it in such a convincing way that your partner thinks it's true. Choose <u>one</u> of the topics below and plan what you're going to say. Use the language in the **Telling an anecdote** box to help you, and ask your teacher for any other words you need.

Talk about a time when you...



had a frightening experience when you were travelling or on holiday



got ill or had an accident while travelling



arrived home from a trip and had a surprise

Telling an anecdote

Setting the scene
This happened to me when I was...
I was...-ing when... *I...because I had / hadn't...*

The main events
I decided to...because... *So then I...*
Suddenly / At that moment...

What happened in the end
In the end / eventually... *I felt...*

c In pairs, **A** tell **B** your story. **B** show interest and ask for more details. Then decide whether you think the story is true or not. Then swap roles.

This happened to me a few years ago when I was on holiday in Florida. I was swimming in the sea one day when I saw a shark.

Really? How big was it?

9 2 12 SONG *The Airplane Song* ♫

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