

**Making a News Report**

**The story**

An aircraft has been struck by lightning as it lands at CDG Paris airport. The Airbus A380 which was arriving from London was flying through a storm yesterday evening. The plane was operated by Science in Schools airlines and carrying over 400 people. There was no damage to the plane and everybody on board was completely safe.



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**Match the role to the picture:**



1. 2. 3. 4. 5. ©thinkstock

**Individual roles:**

- a. A news reporter
- b. A passenger from the plane
- c. A witness on the ground
- d. A SIS airline representative
- e. A scientific expert

**Role play.** Groups of five.

Prepare a news report interview of approximately 2 minutes long, covering the story of the plane hit by lightning. Decide on your roles, as above, in your groups and take 20 to 30mins to prepare and practice the interviews. Use the language below to help you. You are going to present your interviews to the rest of the class and give each other feedback using the peer assessment table.

### **A few facts to remember about lightning and planes:**

- Metal aircraft are safe because metal conducts electricity so it can withstand the electric current from the lightning strike
- Modern aircraft made out of non-metals are also safe because engineers add a thin layer of metal inside the carbon-fibre material
- A lightning bolt is hotter than the surface of the sun 30,000°C
- New designs are tested in lightning laboratories
- We use carbon-fibre to make aircraft lighter which saves fuel costs less to run and is better for the environment
- Engineers are currently developing new ways to protect modern aircraft to make them even lighter but still 100% safe

**NOTE:** The Airbus A380 has both metallic structure (the wings) and some carbon-fibre structure (the fuselage)

**Peer assessment table.** Complete the table, filling in the gaps. Then, as you listen to other group's role-play, assess them. Give them feedback. This is an opportunity to help each other develop.

Category	4	3	2	1
Content	Shows a full understanding of the topic and their role.	Shows a good understanding of the topic and their role.		Shows little understanding of the content and their role.
Comprehension			Able to understand enough to respond to questions.	Unable to understand or respond to questions.
Vocabulary	Uses a good range of vocabulary which is appropriate and accurate to the topic.	Uses a range of vocabulary which is appropriate to the topic.		Uses a limited range of simple words which are sometimes off topic.
Speaks clearly	Speaks very clearly with very good pronunciation and fluency.		Speaks quite clearly with <b>some</b> good pronunciation and fluency.	Doesn't speak clearly. Articulates rarely and can not be understood.
Enthusiasm		Facial expressions and body language sometimes generate a strong interest and enthusiasm for their role.	Facial expressions and body language are used to <b>try</b> to generate enthusiasm for their role.	Very little use of facial expressions or body language. Did not generate much interest in their role.

### Role cards for role play



<p><b>Role: Scientific Expert</b> You work in the lightning lab in Toulouse and do tests and research on materials and the impact of lightning. Explain to the reporter how the plane is protected from lightning.</p> <p><b>Start:</b> <i>In fact most commercial aircraft are struck by lightning about once per year! The metal structure of the plane.....</i></p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Conducts electricity. Lightning bolt. Protection.</p>	<p><b>Role: SIS Airline Representative</b> You are responsible for the safety inspection of the planes before they fly. Explain to the reporter what your job is.</p> <p><b>Start:</b> <i>We inspect all our aircraft.....</i></p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Inspect. Make sure. Check. Carry out tests. Control. Responsibility. Safe.</p>
<p><b>Role: Witness</b> You were walking down the road when you noticed the plane in the sky being struck by lightning. Explain to the reporter what you saw and how you felt.</p> <p><b>Start:</b> <i>I was walking down the road when suddenly .....</i></p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Sky. Thunder. Clouds. Airport. Runway. Landing</p>	<p><b>Role: Passenger</b> You were on the plane when the lightning struck. Describe to the reporter how you felt and what you saw.</p> <p><b>Start:</b> <i>I was.....when suddenly I .....</i></p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Sleeping. Eating. Reading. Day dreaming. Talking. Felt. Heard. Saw</p>
<p><b>Role: News reporter</b> You are going to interview everyone in your live news report for the evening SIS news. Prepare two questions for each person: <b>passenger, witness, SIS Airline Representative, scientific expert</b></p> <p><b>Start:</b> <i>Hello, my name is _____ and this is the SIS evening news. This morning an Airbus A380 was struck by lightning. We are speaking 'live' to.....</i></p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b> Cause. Consequence. Impact.</p>	<p><b>Role:</b> <i>(invent a new role if you have six people in your group)</i></p>