
ANSWER KEY

Unit 7**A**

Alexander experienced a really severe storm while flying from Barcelona to London. It was so windy his plane couldn't land for ages. Lots of passengers became convinced they were going to die. It was really, really windy.

Julia experienced a really harsh winter. It dropped to -30 and loads of people lost all the heating and electricity in their houses. Some people went two weeks without anything. Then it snowed like crazy – maybe 30 or 40 centimetres of snow. Schools had to be closed and there were transport problems.

B

He was flying from *Barcelona* to London when the winds hit.

The plane couldn't land and so spent ages *circling in the sky* above the airport.

Other passengers were screaming and shouting and praying – and *holding hands*. They thought they were going to die.

There wasn't any *thunder or lightning*. It was just incredibly windy.

Lots of *boilers* broke down due to the cold, which meant lots of people lost all their heating!

Some people didn't have any heating or electricity for maybe *two weeks*!

After the freezing cold weather, it snowed non-stop for *48 hours*.

Her office stayed open, so she had to go into work, but *her engine* didn't like the cold. Every morning, *her engine* was dead and she had to get her husband to start her car from *his engine*.

E

- 1 that our plane couldn't land
- 2 fall to pieces
- 3 at the fourth attempt
- 4 scared to death
- 5 screaming, crying and praying
- 6 all day long
- 7 dropped to -30
- 8 it eased off a bit
- 9 had to make a tunnel
- 10 it would've still been cold

VIDEO SCRIPT

- Julia So, have you ever experienced any extreme weather?
- Alexander Back home, not really. We're very lucky with that usually, but a few years ago I was flying from Barcelona to London, where I was studying, and it was so incredibly windy that our plane couldn't land.
- Julia Seriously? Because of the wind? So what happened?
- Alexander Oh, it was terrifying. Really, really scary. The pilot was trying to land, but couldn't and the whole plane was shaking like this, like the plane was going to fall to pieces. We all thought we were going to die. And we were only able to land at the fourth attempt.
- Julia So until then you were just circling in the sky, like this?
- Alexander Yes. It was horrible. I was scared to death! I mean, thinking about it today, it's funny, but at the time ...
- Julia I bet! So how were the other passengers reacting? Were they screaming?
- Alexander Yes! You could hear people screaming, crying and praying and you could see them holding hands.
- Julia Woah!
- Alexander And then, after we'd landed, it was really, really windy all day long.
- Julia Was it raining as well?
- Alexander No, no. No rain, no thunder, no lightning. Just very, very windy!
- Julia You've scared me away from flying, you know!
- Alexander Sorry.
- Julia Anyway, that reminds me of what happened in my hometown last winter.
- Alexander Really? What happened?
- Julia We just had a really bad winter. It dropped to -30, more or less, at night and lots of people lost all their heating because their boilers broke down and the same thing happened with electricity. Some people were living for maybe two weeks in their homes without anything!
- Alexander I can't imagine this! I would die. Really!
- Julia We had this freezing weather for maybe two weeks, then it eased off a bit, but then we got snow. 48 hours of non-stop snow. We had problems with transport and some of the schools had to be closed.
- Alexander How much snow was there?
- Julia In my town, maybe 30 or 40 centimetres, but enough to stop the buses in the city. It was worse in the north. I saw a man on TV who had to make a tunnel from his front door to get out of the house in some village near the mountains.
- Alexander This is one problem we really don't have in my city!
- Julia And I had to go to work, because my office was open all the time, but I just had this big problem with my car because I couldn't fire the engine. I don't know the word. How to make the car start working. Anyway, I couldn't start my car so every morning my husband had to start my car from his car's engine and we were always late, but at least my daughter had a great time playing in the snow!
- Alexander You must need very special clothes for this kind of weather.
- Julia Yes, but we could have worn anything and it would've still been cold. You couldn't be out in the fresh air for longer than 30 minutes because you would be frozen and your feet start to hurt.