

# Emergency Landing

## Context

### The Story – Part 1

Here is the first part of the story. Read it quite quickly. Don't worry about any words you don't understand.

## Emergency Landing

'Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking,' said the voice over the intercom. 'I'm afraid we have engine trouble, so we'll have to make an emergency landing. There's no cause for alarm; we can get down quite safely. I apologize for the inconvenience.'

'Bother!' said one of the passengers. 'I've got an important meeting, and I don't want to be late.'

'Where are we, anyway?' said the passenger in the seat next to him. They both peered out of the porthole. 'I suppose we'll land down there,' said the first passenger. 'It looks like the only possible place. I don't recognize it, though.'

The stewardess, who was coming down the aisle, overheard. 'It is rather in the middle of nowhere, I'm afraid,' she said ruefully. 'We won't find a qualified mechanic there. But don't worry: the crew have been trained to do repairs, and they shouldn't take very long.'

'Hmm. Will we be able to make ourselves understood to the natives?' the first passenger asked.

'I shouldn't think so, sir. I shouldn't think anyone there can speak our language.'

The passengers didn't like the sound of that. 'What if they're hostile?' someone else wanted to know. 'We could be in danger!'

After reading the first part of the short story:

- decide if the following sentences are True or False;
- correct the false ones.

1. There is a problem with the engine.

2. They immediately recognize the place for the emergency landing.

3. A passenger is worried about his business.

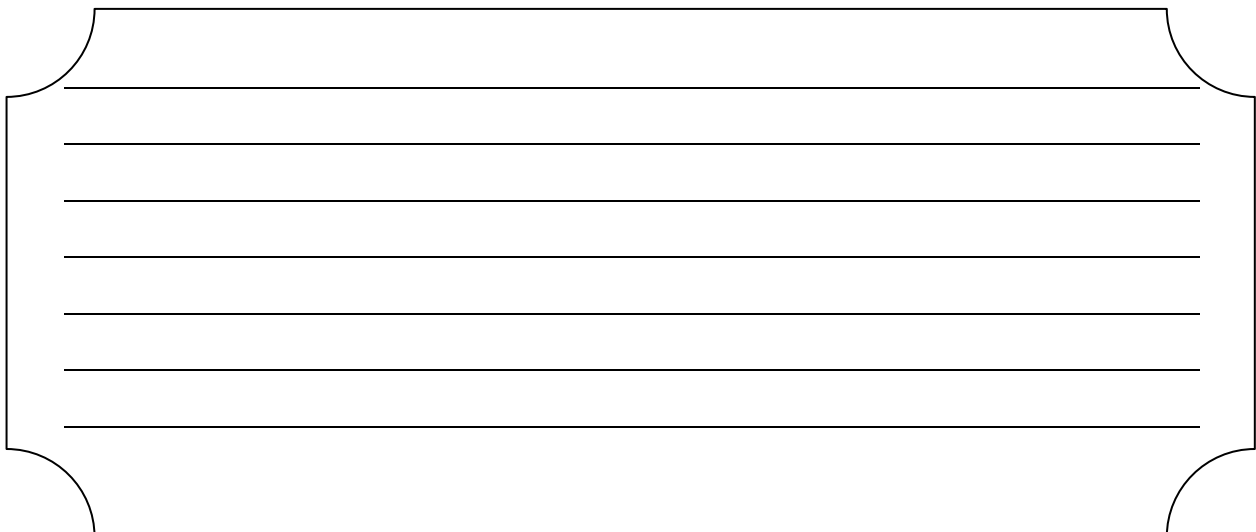
4. A team of qualified mechanics will repair the engine.

5. One of the passengers believes the local people will understand their language.

**Imagine what happens next. Be creative!**

You are going to write a paragraph – between 40-60 words. Before you do that, discuss these questions with a partner. They may help you.

- Where will they land?
- What kind of place is it?
- Who will they meet?
- What do the local inhabitants look like?
- What language do the natives speak?
- How do they communicate?
- Will they be friendly?



# Emergency Landing

## Context

### The Story – Part 2

Here is the second - and last - part of the story.

The stewardess laughed. Or rather, she waggled four of her six antennae, which amounted to the same thing. ‘Don’t worry’, she chuckled. ‘We’ve got weapons that no one there has even dreamed of! So if there’s any trouble, we’ll just power them up and ----pffft!’

They all looked out of the portholes at the little blue-and-green world revolving against a background of deep-space stars. The people who lived on the little world called it Earth, though the passengers didn’t know that, and wouldn’t have cared if they had.

‘I expect,’ said the stewardess comfortably, ‘we’ll blow the planet up when we leave. We usually do.’ She waggled her antennae again. ‘It saves a lot of silly form-filling and questions when we get home. Now, ladies and gentlemen; if you would kindly fasten your seat belts as we go in to land...’

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### Vocabulary

The following words are all in the text.  
Do you think they are positive or negative?  
Check the meanings in a dictionary if you want to.

worry	qualified	inconvenience	hostile
ruefully	danger	laughed	
chuckled	silly	kindly	

<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>

**What are the feelings of the passengers and crew when they say the following things? Choose the best words from the box below.**

**Use a dictionary if you need to.**

1. "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking ."

(mood) \_\_\_\_\_

2. "There's no cause for alarm..."

(mood) \_\_\_\_\_

3. "I apologize for the inconvenience ."

(mood) \_\_\_\_\_

4. "Bother...I don't want to be late."

(mood) \_\_\_\_\_

5. "We could be in danger."

(mood) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mood Box**

**upset and impatient**

**reassuring**

**informative**

**worried**

**apologetic**

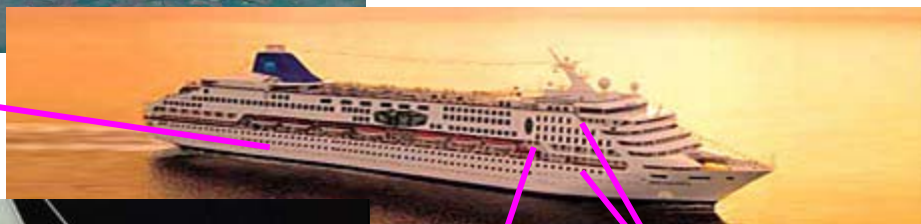
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### Means of Transport (1)

Look at the pictures and write the correct word on the labels.

cockpit	deck	passenger seats	sail	wing
porthole	tail	hull	aisle	



Write a short description of the spaceship that the passengers in the story are travelling in, and illustrate it if you like.

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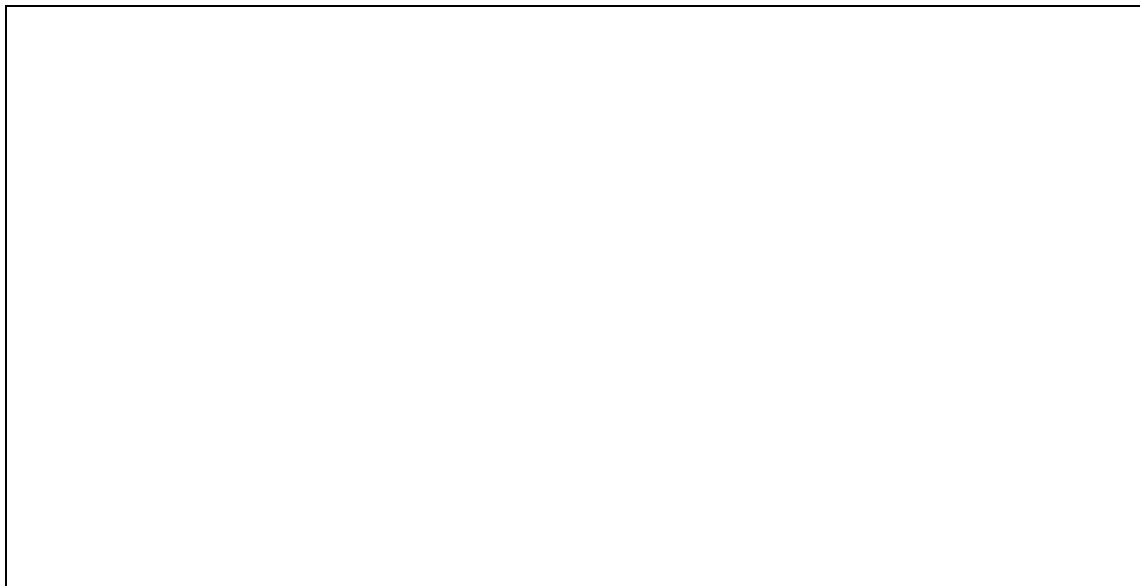
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**(Illustration)**



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## Context

### What Kind of Story?

What kind of story do you think 'Emergency Landing' is? Justify your choice.

<b>western</b>	<b>science-fiction</b>
<b>romance</b>	<b>thriller</b>
<b>comedy</b>	<b>horror</b>

- a. Have you ever read a book or seen a film of this kind?
- b. If so, what was the title?
- c. Name its writer, director or main actors.
- d. What are the names of the main characters in those books or films?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

# Emergency Landing

## Context

### Author's Biography

Read the following text carefully. Find out about the author.

*Louise Cooper's Biography.*

***The Real Louise.***



"I was born in Hertfordshire on 29th May 1952, and am a typical scatterbrained Gemini. I spent most of my school years writing stories when I should have been concentrating on lessons, and by the time I left school I had completed two embarrassingly bad novels. I worked, firstly, as a secretary (again, writing stories when I should have been typing letters) and later, after moving to London, as a paperback blurb-writer, which was much more my sort of thing. In 1977, with 6 novels published (if not exactly best-sellers!) I went freelance, and supplemented my writing income with copy-editing and proofreading.

My "big break" came in 1984, when my then agent persuaded me to expand and re-write my second book, *Lord of No Time*, into a trilogy – *The Time Master*. To my delight, and with the boost of three stunning Robert Gould covers, *Time Master* was a great success on both sides of the Atlantic, and in the next 10 years I wrote and published 15 more fantasy novels, including the Indigo series and a "prequel" and sequel to *Time Master*. I also started to write children's and Young Adult novels, and it astonishes me to look back and realise that I've completed 20-odd books in this field, as well as another four adult fantasy novels. Makes me wonder how I ever found time to eat and sleep!

Cas and I met in 1994, and soon agreed that, much as we loved London, it was no longer the place for us. We did what we had both always wanted to do: headed South-West. Cornwall has a magical quality of its own, and is now truly home to us both."

*from* Louise  
Cooper Official Website  
<http://wordswork.net/cooper2/>



## Choose activity A or B.

### A. Answer the questions.

1. Who wrote *Emergency Landing*?
2. How old is she now?
3. Where was she born?
4. How many books has she written so far?
5. Where does she live?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Fill in the table with information from the text.

author	age	sex	place of birth	books	home

