LANGUAGE FOCUS: Past and present

Compare how we talk about past and present events.

past	present
We **lost** thrust in both engines.	We're **turning back** to LaGuardia.
He **lost** thrust in the engines.	He **is returning** immediately.

4a **2.26** Match the events in the past (1–8) to the resulting actions in the present (a–h). Then listen and check.

1 We lost thrust in both engines ...
2 We had a sudden cabin depressurisation ...
3 We saw a thunderstorm ahead of us ...
4 We felt a loud thud from Engine 2 during climb-out ...
5 ATC told us to take delaying action ...
6 ATC cleared us to FL 390 ...
7 We smelt smoke in the flight deck ...
8 Area Control handed us over to Approach ...

a and are checking the engine parameters.
b and we are climbing now.
c and we are orbiting at the moment.
d and are making an emergency descent.
e and we are donning our oxygen masks.
f and are turning back to LaGuardia.
g and we are contacting them on 118.325.
h and we are turning 20 degrees right to avoid it.

5 **Student A → p135** **Student B → p143** Take turns to obtain information from your partner about what has happened and what they are doing as a result. Confirm what you have understood and respond to any requests with appropriate information.

B   *Report on your status.*
A   *We had a bird strike and lost thrust on Engine Number 1. We are turning back and request ILS approach Runway 21.*
B   *You had a bird strike on Engine Number 1 and are turning back. Cleared ILS Approach Runway 21.*

6a **Student A → p135** **Student B → p143** You each have half of the events in the six-minute flight of US Airways 1549. Without looking at each other's information, communicate to each other the information you have and number the events in the order in which they occurred.

b In pairs, role play the communication between the pilot and the controller using your notes from Exercise 6a.

c What decisions did the pilot of Flight 1549 have to make? What information did he have to take into account?