Houston, we have a problem.
2.4 Reading (Past Simple and Past Continuous)

It ¹_____ (PS; be) 13 April 1970, two days after the launch of Apollo 13. BBC journalist Reg Turnill ²_____ (PC; report) on the mission from the space centre in Houston. He described the moment he ³_____ (PS; realise) there was a problem with Apollo 13:

'I ⁴_____ (PS; look) into mission control just before going to bed. I ⁵_____ (PC; go) through the door when I ⁶_____ (PS; hear) Jim Lovell say, "Houston, we have a problem".'

Instead of going to bed, the journalist ⁷_____ (PS; go) back to his desk and ⁸_____ (PS; stay) there for the next three days.

Apollo 13's commander Jim Lovell, together with his colleagues Fred Haise and Jack Swigert, ⁹_____ (PC; carry) out NASA's third mission to the moon. Lovell and Haise ¹⁰_____ (PC; plan) to walk on the moon. But this never ¹¹_____ (PS; happen). Nearly two days into the flight, things ¹²_____ (PC; go) so smoothly that Joe Kerwin, on duty at mission control, ¹³_____ (PS; tell) the crew, 'The spacecraft is in real good shape (...). We're bored to tears down here.'

Several hours later, the crew ¹⁴_____ (PS; hear) a loud explosion. On board the spacecraft, warning lights ¹⁵_____ (PC; flash). One of the fuel tanks ¹⁶_____ (PS; be) empty and one of them ¹⁷_____ (PS; be) close to zero. Thirteen minutes after the explosion, Jim Lovell ¹⁸_____(PS; look) out of the hatch. Gas ¹⁹_____ (PC; escape) into space.

NASA ²⁰_____ (PS; react) quickly. They ²¹_____ (PS; call) in all the most experienced astronauts, including Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. They ²²_____ (PS; work) day and night with the NASA engineers and the crew of Apollo 13 to find a solution.

Both mission control and the astronauts ²³_____ (PS; remain) very calm, but by breakfast time, the media ²⁴_____ (PC; go) crazy. Millions of people ²⁵_____ (PC; follow) the events on television. The newspapers ²⁶_____ (PS; report) that the astronauts only ²⁷_____ (PS; have) a ten percent chance of getting home safely.

Meanwhile, on board, the astronauts ²⁸_____ (PS; not discuss) the possibility of not returning home. They ²⁹_____ (PC; try) to figure out what ³⁰_____ (PC; happen) and how to fix it. Supplies of oxygen and water ³¹_____ (PC; run) out but with the help of the engineers at mission control, they ³²_____ (PS; come) up with a plan.

The spacecraft ³³_____ (PS; orbit) the moon, using its gravity to return to earth. As the spacecraft ³⁴_____ (PS; leave) outer space and ³⁵_____ (PS; re-enter) into the earth's atmosphere, nobody ³⁶_____ (PS; know) whether the astronauts would live or die.

Under parachutes, the spacecraft ³⁷_____ (PS; appear) through the clouds and exhausted workers at mission control ³⁸_____ (PS; be) finally able to breathe a sigh of relief, raise their hands and cheer.

The capsule successfully ³⁹_____ (PS; return) to earth on Friday 17 April 1970. It ⁴⁰_____ (PS; splash) down in the Pacific Ocean near Tonga, where a rescue boat ⁴¹_____(PC; wait) to recover the three astronauts.

PS = Past Simple   PC = Past Continuous

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