

Introduction Flight 1549



In January 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 hit some birds just a few minutes after it took off from a New York airport, causing both engines to die. The pilot decided to crash-land the plane in the Hudson River. Ric Elias had a front-row seat on this flight. What went through his mind as the doomed plane carrying 155 people went down? Elias tells his story publicly for the first time in a TED Talk.

Step 1:

Discuss the following question with your partner(s).

- *Imagine you are on this plane as it is crashing. What thoughts would go through your mind?*

Step 2:

What do the following words and expressions mean?

- brace for impact
- bucket list
- mend fences
- ego

Step 3:



Watch Ric Elias' TED Talk and answer the following question:

- *What three things did Ric Elias learn as the plane was*

crashing?

Step 4:

Writing task:

Write one sentence that gives the necessary background information about the plane crash. (i.e. a sentence that tells what happened, where, when, why, how, who)

Next, write one sentence that summarizes each of the three lessons Elias learned.

Lesson one: _____

Lesson two: _____

Lesson three: _____

Step 5:

In groups of three, share your sentences with each other. Comment on your partners' sentences. Do the sentences summarize the main points? Is there any extra information that could be cut?

Step 6:

Interview your partner about a close call he/she has had. What happened? What did your partner learn from this experience. Take notes as you interview your partner.

Step 7:

Write a brief summary of your partner's experience.