

What went wrong?

must have been / can't have been

1 10.4 Rick is calling Alex. Read and listen to his side of the conversation. What is it about?

R Alex, you're back! Did you and Hannah have a good time?

A ...

R Really? What on earth happened?

A ...

R I bet you were furious with her – that's the one thing you do need to travel these days. Did you go back to get it?

A ...

R By four hours!? That's a long time. Were things OK when you finally took off?

A ...

R I know, my poor sister. Turbulence can be really scary. Hannah must have been terrified. So, did things get better when you landed?

A ...

R You poor things! No sleep, after that nightmare journey. Didn't you complain?

A ...

R Three o'clock!? Were things any better the next day?

A ...

R So ... even the weather was awful. Sorry Alex ... but Leah and I were much luckier in Spain ... we had cloudless skies every day.

A ...

R What? No sun at all – just wind and rain!

A ...

R You're kidding! You must have been so glad to get home and go back to work!



2 Work with a partner. Try to work out Alex's side of the conversation. Read the questions. Discuss and tick (✓) what you think is the most likely answer.

1 What is the relationship between Rick and Alex?

- ☐ They could be brothers.
☐ They must be brothers-in-law.

2 Where have Alex and Hannah been?

- ☐ They must have been on holiday abroad.
☐ They might have been on holiday in Scotland.

3 Why was Alex furious?

- ☐ He may have forgotten his passport.
☐ Hannah could have forgotten her passport.

4 What was wrong with the journey?

- ☐ The flight must have been delayed.
☐ They might have missed their flight.

5 Why is Rick sorry for Hannah?

- ☐ She must be afraid of flying.
☐ She could have been sick on the flight.

6 What was wrong when they arrived?

- ☐ Their hotel room may not have been ready.
☐ They can't have liked their room.

7 Were Alex and Hannah in Spain?

- ☐ They can't have been in Spain.
☐ They could have been in Spain.

8 What was the weather like?

- ☐ There may have been a hurricane nearby.
☐ It can't have rained every day.

What do you think?

3 Go through the questions and tell the class what you think.
We think Alex and Rick must be brothers-in-law ...

4 10.5 Listen to the full conversation and check your answers.

