Reading and Vocabulary

A. Read a newspaper story about an incident that happened during a flight. Circle the right form of the verbs 1-9.

Nightmare over the Atlantic!

At 11.35 on January 13th 2012 British Airways flight BA 0206 1**took *off / was taking off* from Miami to London.** It had been flying for about three hours, and was over the Atlantic, when suddenly a voice 2came *out / had come out* of the loudspeakers: 'This is an emergency announcement. We may shortly have to make an emergency landing on water.'

Immediately panic 3*broke out / was breaking out*. One passenger on the flight said, 'My wife and I looked at each other and we feared the worst. We imagined that we were about to crash into the Atlantic. It was awful. Everybody 4 *screamed / was screaming*.'

But about 30 seconds later the cabin crew started to run up and down the aisle saying that the message 5*had been played / was being played* by accident, and that everything was OK. By this time a lot of the passengers were in tears, and 6 *tried / were trying* to get their life jackets out from under their seats.

Another passenger said, 'The captain didn't even say anything about it until just before we started to land and even then, he didn't explain what 7 *happened / had happened*. It was very traumatic. Everybody was terrified. I can't think of anything worse than being told your plane's about to crash. It 8*was / had been* the worst experience of my life.'

Later a British Airways spokesman 9*said / had said*, 'A prerecorded emergency announcement was activated by error on our flight from Miami to Heathrow. We would like to apologize to passengers on this flight.'

B. Read the text again and answer the following questions. Write short answer if possible.

1. Where was the plane heading?
2. What was happening before the announcement broke out?
3. What was the announcement about?
4. What happened to the passenger after the announcement?
5. How did the cabin crew ensure everything was fine?
6. What did the captain do?
7. How did the passenger describe his or her experience?
8. What was the explanation the British Airways spokesman gave?

Write your answers here:

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