


1

It's an emergency!

Lesson 1

Reading

1  What do you know about power cuts? Discuss.

- 1 What happens during a power cut?
- 2 Who can you call for help?
- 3 Have you ever been in a power cut? How did you feel?

2 Look at the text. Where is it from? How do you know?

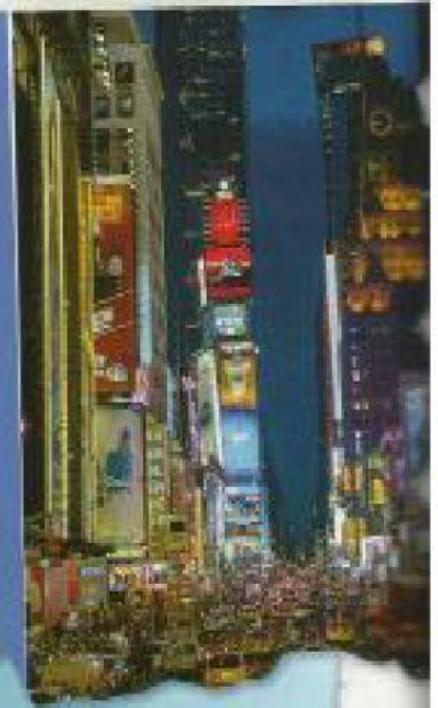
- a a book b a website c a newspaper

3  1.2 Read and check. Find these features. **Be a star!** 

- a the headline c a quote
b the subheading d a caption

4 Look at the vocabulary panel. Find the words in the text. Use the context to work out what they mean.

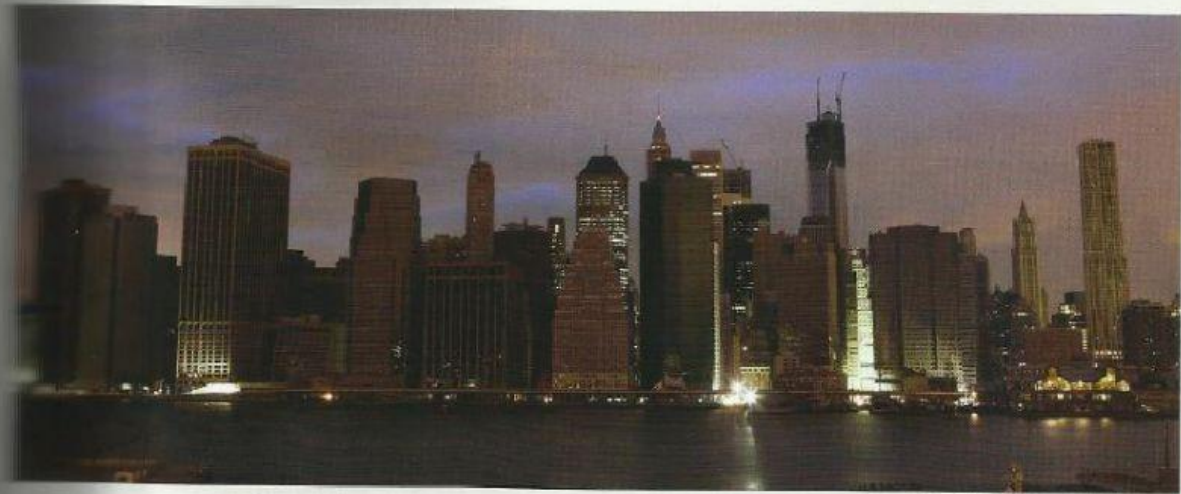
accident ambulance cooker electricity
embarrassed heating hit million
power rehearse (rehearsing)



THE DAY THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

POWER CUT HITS MILLIONS, NO LIGHT, NO HEAT, NO TRAINS

By Tony De Marchi



New York City in darkness

A POWER CUT HIT NEW YORK STATE YESTERDAY. Millions of people - from New York to Canada - had no light, no heating and no food. Thirty million people had no electricity for 13 hours.

The power cut hit at 7 pm while pupils at Thomas Jefferson School were rehearsing for a school concert. 'I was singing when suddenly all the lights went out,' said 11-year-old Loretta Green.

Across New York City, people were making dinner. 'I was cooking soup when the power went off,' said Martha Miller, in Manhattan. 'It was dark everywhere. There was no electricity at all. My cooker is electric, so it stopped working - we had to eat biscuits for dinner! And it was really cold because there was no heating.'

12-year-old Natasha Spendak was travelling home. 'My train was leaving the station when the lights went out,' she said. 'The train went dark, a woman screamed, and then it stopped - in the dark! It was really scary.'

Ambulances and hospitals were busy through the night. 'The traffic lights stopped working so there were some bad traffic accidents,' said James Fenner of the New York Ambulance Service. 'There were a lot of problems at home and in the streets. Some people broke an arm or a leg.'

“The train went dark, a woman screamed ...”

There was no moon last night, so travelling by car was very difficult. 'It was really dark in Times Square,' said Mario Bolatelli, a police officer. 'A lot of people left their cars in the street and walked home.'

At New York Zoo, an elephant escaped. 'The lights went out while we were feeding the animals,' said Marni Sherlock of the zoo. 'Someone forgot to close the gate, so the elephant escaped and walked down the road to the supermarket. It's OK now though, and is safely back in the zoo.'

Why was there a power cut across a large part of North America?

The answer is - a squirrel.

'We're very embarrassed,' said John Matlock of New York Power. 'A squirrel jumped on the power lines and they stopped working. It was an accident. We're very sorry.'

Lesson 2 Reading comprehension

- 1 Read the article on page 9 again.
Answer the questions.

- 1 Where was the power cut?
- 2 How many hours did it continue for?
- 3 Why did a woman scream on the train?
- 4 Why were there some bad traffic accidents?
- 5 Why did people leave their cars in Times Square?
- 6 Why was there a power cut?



- 2 Who do you think said these things? Match the quote to a person. **Be a star!**

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 'A squirrel caused the power cut.' | a a zookeeper |
| 2 'A lot of people had accidents at home.' | b a mother |
| 3 'It escaped through an open gate.' | c an ambulance driver |
| 4 'You couldn't see anything in Times Square.' | d a worker at New York Power |
| 5 'My cooker and heating stopped working.' | e a police officer |

- 3 Discuss. Which situation (a or b) is more dangerous? Why?

- a The traffic lights stopped working.
- b The elephant escaped from the zoo.

Learning to learn

Understand nouns and verbs

Some words can be both a noun and a verb. These words name a person, place or thing and also describe an action.

Read and write N (Noun) or V (Verb).

- 1 I heard a scream. N Don't scream! V
- 2 You'll break your arm! V It was a bad break. N
- 3 Stop the train! V Let's get off at the next stop. N

Other verbs change a little to make the noun. You need to learn these.

- 4 The cooker isn't working. N We couldn't cook dinner. V
- 5 We couldn't heat soup without electricity. V The heating isn't working. N