A. Listen and match the description to the picture.

1. The island of Puerto Rico was **hit** by **Hurricane** Calvin late this morning. Electric power was temporarily **disrupted** throughout the island, and many homes were **damaged** by **heavy rains** and **strong winds.**



2. Quebec was hit by **severe thunderstorms** yesterday. Flights at several airports were delayed by heavy rains, **thunder,** and **lightning**. Last night, three families were **rescued** by emergency workers after their homes were damaged by **flash floods** resulting from the rains.



3. Firefighters in Australia say over 10,000 acres of forest were completely **destroyed** by **catastrophic wildfires** this year. Investigators suspect some fires were caused by careless campers. They believe other fires started when trees were **struck** by lightning.



4. A shopping mall in Kansas was badly damaged by a **tornado** last night. A nearby town was later hit by a **freak hailstorm.** Cars were struck by **hailstones** the size of golf balls. Amazingly, no one was seriously **injured** by the tornado or the storm.



5. A small town in Italy was struck by a **minor earthquake** this morning. The quake measured 4.9 on the Richter scale. **Aftershocks** were felt in several towns. Some homes were partially destroyed, but no serious injuries were reported.



B **Write words and expressions from the news stories in the chart below. Add your own ideas. Then compare with a partner.**

Weather problems	Other natural disasters	Verbs for damage and help
hurricane *typhoon*	*(catastrophic) wildfires*	*hit*

C **Can you put these statements in the correct order?**

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1. firefighters / rescued / two families / by / were
2. was / hailstones / struck / a car / by
3. injured / was / seriously / no one
4. completely / a mall / destroyed / was / by / a fire

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar

Listen and repeat the grammar chart.

When the "doer" of the action – the agent – is important, you can use *by* to introduce it.

Three families were rescued **by** emergency workers.
The fires were caused **by** careless campers.
A shopping mall was damaged **by** a tornado.

Adverbs with the passive

A mall was **badly** damaged.
No one was **seriously** injured.
The forest was **completely** destroyed.
Power was **temporarily** disrupted.
Homes were **partially** destroyed.

A **Rewrite the extracts from news stories. Use the simple past passive with *by* + agent. Add the adverb where given in parentheses.**

1. A fire destroyed an old warehouse. (partially)

   _____

2. A minor earthquake disrupted power supplies. (temporarily)

   _____

3. A hurricane damaged a high school. (badly)

   _____

4. A tornado destroyed a police station. (completely)

   _____

5. Lightning injured two golfers. (seriously)

   _____

6. Catastrophic wildfires destroyed three homes. (totally)

   _____

7. Emergency workers rescued two injured hikers in a state park. (finally)

   _____

8. High winds blew down a 500-year-old tree yesterday.

   _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS