

UNIT 4

Lesson 3

Disasters



LESSON SUMMARY

Vocabulary



Word/Phrase	Meaning	Example
expect (v) /ɪk'spekt/	to believe something will happen	We didn't expect the flood to hit the city.
inform (v) /ɪn'fɔ:rm/	to tell somebody about something	The reporter was trying to inform us about the tsunami.
immediately (adv) /ɪ'mi:diətli/ also at once	right now, and without any delay	Call the emergency services immediately if you are in danger.
task (n) /tæsk/	a piece of work that you must complete	It was a difficult task to clean up the streets when the flood was over.
warning (n) /'wɔ:niŋ/	something, such as a message or an announcement, to tell you to prepare for something bad may happen	The local government gave a warning of floods last Thursday.

PRACTICE



Writing

An emergency announcement about a disaster

1) **Sent:** Time, Month, Date
What: Flood, earthquake, ...
Where: the city, the beach, ...
When: from ... to ...

2) **What might happen:**
 It can cause landslides, ...

3) **Instruction:**
 What to do
 • Run to a safe place, ...
 What not to do
 • Do not use an elevator, ...

1) **Sent:** 17:54 January 11

What: An avalanche

Where: Areas near the White Tops Mountain

When: From 9:30 to 14:30, January 12

2) Because of yesterday's sudden snowstorm, an avalanche might happen shortly. It can travel at a speed of 120 mph and block roads and railways. Even worse, there will be a power cut for a few hours. Stay alert and safe.

3) **Instructions:**

- Avoid going near the mountain around the time of the avalanche.
- Learn the sign of an avalanche and practice using life-saving equipment.
- In case someone is buried under the snow, call 911 and then begin to search for them if it is safe to do so.

Vocabulary

a. Match each definition or description with the correct word in the box.

- 1 This means without any delay.
- 2 This is a piece of work that you have to do.
- 3 This means believe something will happen.
- 4 This means tell somebody about something.
- 5 This is for telling you to avoid something bad that may happen in the future.

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- A task
 B expect
 C inform
 D warning
 E immediately

b. Complete the conversation using the words in the boxes.

stock up

warning

expect

inform

immediately

Phil: There was a 6) _____ on another typhoon. It will last for a few hours.

Ben: That's bad! I don't 7) _____ it to hit our village.

Phil: I don't, either. We'll have to 8) _____ other people of the news.

Ben: You're right. And we should do that 9) _____ before it is too late.

Phil: We also need to 10) _____ on some food and drinks for emergencies.



Listening

a. Listen to an announcement about a typhoon. Fill in each gap with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER. 

BREAKING
NEWS
TYPHOON

Sent: 14:03 1) _____

What: A typhoon

Where: 2) _____ City

It might take place for 3) _____ days.

There will be a power cut during the storm.

The flood water can rise up to 4) _____ meters high.

Instructions:

- Know your 5) _____ and have an escape plan.
- Keep contact numbers of the local emergency services and board up the doors.

b. Listen to the conversation between Jessica and Rita. Circle the correct answers. 

- 6 What was the most useful thing Rita learned from Mr. Park's presentation?

A making an escape plan
B keeping food and drinks

C boarding up a house
D keeping a lifebuoy
- 7 What did Jessica think about the workshop when it was over?

A boring
B fun
C terrible
D informative
- 8 What idea from the presentation did Jessica like?

A making an escape plan
B calling emergency services

C boarding up a house
D stocking up on food and drinks
- 9 What did Mr. Park advise people to do while waiting for the supplies?

A to stock up
B to board up

C to write an escape plan
D to wait for supplies
- 10 What should people do if the flood was too high?

A climb up a tree
B walk up a hill
C move upstairs
D climb up a ladder

Reading

a. Read the emergency announcement about a heat wave. Write **T** (true), **F** (false) or **DS** (doesn't say).

Sent: 21:36 June 3
What: A heat wave
Where: Oakland City
When: From 10:00 June 4 to 16:45 June 9
 The heat wave is now going on in the city. The highest temperature may hit 40°C. People with weight and alcohol problems may get heatstroke. The heat wave might affect other systems across the city. Water and electricity shortage may happen during the heat wave.

Instructions:

- Wear a hat or carry an umbrella with you if you're outside.
- Get enough water and avoid sugary drinks.
- Exercise gently.
- Come and see your family, friends and neighbors, especially older people.
- If someone gets heatstroke or heat exhaustion, contact the emergency services immediately.



- 1 There are no power supplies and water during the heat wave. _____
- 2 Heatstroke is dangerous during the heat wave. _____
- 3 Bring an umbrella with you if you are out during the heat wave. _____
- 4 Stay away from sugary drinks during the heat wave. _____
- 5 Call an emergency service if someone suffers from heatstroke. _____

b. Read the text about blizzards in China. Answer each question with **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text.

China is one of the countries that experiences the most blizzards in the world. Blizzards frequently hit the central and southern regions of the country. The year 2008 saw one of the worst blizzards in its history. It happened between January 25 and February 6 and killed 129 people. According to official records, the country did not experience its worst winter months in more than two decades. Experts in meteorology said that La Nina, a weather phenomenon, could be the cause of the blizzard. Millions of crops failed, and livestock died in the snowstorm. Also, it caused enormous damage to the national electricity grid. The power cut happened in Fuzhou in about three weeks. There was no power or water supply in Chenzhou for nearly two weeks. According to officials, it took five months to fully fix the electricity grid.



- 6 When did the country experience its worst blizzard? _____
- 7 How many people died from the blizzard? _____
- 8 What could be the cause of the blizzard? _____
- 9 What died in the blizzard? _____
- 10 How long did Fuzhou experience the power cut? _____

Speaking

Complete the conversation using the sentences in the box.

- Mia** How was your science class, Ben?
Ben It was exciting, and I finished it last week.
Mia 1) _____
Ben It was about natural disasters like tsunamis, earthquakes, avalanches and many more.
Mia 2) _____
Ben It is like a very large wave from the sea and often comes after an earthquake.
Mia 3) _____
Ben I don't know. But the biggest tsunami in history was over 500 meters tall.
Mia 4) _____
Ben It was on July 9, 1958.
Mia 5) _____
Ben Yes, it was.

- A** Ah, It was a long time ago.
B Good for you. What exactly did you learn in that class?
C What is a tsunami, Ben? It sounds strange to me.
D How tall is a tsunami?
E Oh really? And when did it happen, Ben?

Writing

a. Read the emergency announcement. Fill in the gaps using the words from the boxes. There is one extra word.

landslides

typhoon

inside

attention

canned

outside

Sent: 23:14 May 30

What: A tropical storm

Where: Baytown City

When: From 7:50 June 1 to 23:00 June 4

A tropical storm from the ocean is getting stronger and will soon become a 1) _____.

We don't expect any 2) _____.

Instructions:

- Make an emergency plan for your family.
- Get a first aid kit and some 3) _____ food.
- Always stay 4) _____ during the typhoon.
- Do not walk or drive into flood waters.
- Pay 5) _____ to emergency information and alerts.



b. Write an emergency announcement about a typhoon. Write 80-100 words or more.

In my writing, I use correct...

- vocabulary ☐
- grammar ☐
- spelling ☐
- punctuation ☐
- linking words ☐



Answer Key



- Vocabulary ____/20 pts.
- Listening ____/20 pts.
- Reading ____/20 pts.

- Speaking ____/10 pts.
- Writing ____/30 pts.

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Total ____ / 100 pts.