

A DRAMATIC STORM

Read the text and choose the word that best fits the gap.

On 31st March 2002 I had my only (0)_____ experience of a fairly small natural disaster, when, within four hours, about 224 liters of water per square meter (1)_____ on the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, where I live.

The evening before we noticed some unusual cloud formations that looked as if they were carrying a huge volume of water, it didn't rain during the night but in the morning we noticed that the air was hot and (2)_____. At around midday it began to (3)_____ but this quickly developed into quite a (4)_____ downpour. It didn't stop. The rain continued to (5)_____ down until about five o'clock when there was a brief pause. We didn't go outside as we were too busy (6)_____ all the water that had come in through small cracks in the roof. The people who did, soon discovered that they were mistaken if they thought the storm had (7)_____. Instead there was thunder and lightning and more torrential rain. Cars were swept (8)_____, houses flooded and several people (9)_____ their lives.

After the storm, many people spent days without either electricity or water and others were (10)_____ in temporary shelters until the roads could be (11)_____ of the mud and fallen trees. It seems strange that in a place where there is a volcano that could (12)_____ and where there are occasional earth tremours, the first real natural disaster I experienced was a flood!

