

Vocabulary: Natural disasters

If necessary, revise the rules for comparative adjectives:

http://www.ies-modesto-navarro.es/european_section/1_info/classnotes/adjectives_comparison.htm

EXERCISE 1. Write the comparative forms of the adjectives and adverbs below:

common	destructive	extreme
fast	frequently	heavy
high	intense	powerful
scarce	small	warm

Now check your answers to exercise 1. You can correct them, too: [select OK](#)

EXERCISE 2. Fill in the gaps in the text with the comparative form of the adjectives and adverbs from exercise 1 in the list on the left.

common	Climate change is causing natural disasters to happen
destructive	and to be and therefore cause
extreme	more destruction.
fast (x2)	As global surface temperatures increase, the possibility of
frequently	more droughts and increased intensity of storms is . As
heavy	more water is evaporated into the atmosphere it becomes fuel
high (x2)	for storms to develop. More heat in the
intense	atmosphere and ocean surface temperatures can lead
powerful	to winds in tropical storms , which will also mean
scarce	hurricanes and tornadoes . Rising sea levels
small	expose locations not usually subjected to the power of
warm	the sea and to the erosive forces of waves and currents.
	Scientists have predicted that long-term effects of climate
	change will include a amount of sea ice and a
	permafrost thawing , heat waves will become
	and precipitations will be , while water resources in
	semi-arid regions will become , which will eventually
	lead to droughts.

EXERCISE 3. What is the meaning of the words and phrases in green? Choose the correct one:

a) What is a drought?

It is a natural disaster caused by lack of rain.

It is a natural disaster caused by heavy rain.

It is a natural disaster caused by extreme heat.

b) What is a tropical storm?

It is a heavy rain and wind in a tropical region.

It is a storm with a lot of thunder and lightning in a tropical region.

It is the same as a cyclone.

c) What is a hurricane?

It is a very fast wind that is visible as a cylindrical cloud.

It is a very fast wind that is visible as a spiral cloud.

It is a very fast wind that forms over the sea and looks like a cloud snake.

d) What is a tornado?

It is a very fast wind that is visible as a cylindrical cloud.

It is a very fast wind that is visible as a spiral cloud.

It is a very fast wind that forms over the sea and looks like a cloud snake.

e) What happens when permafrost thaws, and what is the main consequence?

Ice from the poles melts and becomes water and sea level increases.

Ice on the ground in Siberia melts and a lot of methane (a greenhouse effect gas) is liberated into the atmosphere.

The ground near the poles freezes and plants cannot grow.

f) What is a heat wave?

It is a huge wave, also known as a tsunami.

It is an unusually high tide which can cause a flood on the coast

It is a period of unusually high temperatures.