L2 VOCABULARY ITP

STUDENT NAME:_____

TASK: Read the target words. Practice using them by means of the exercises presented here.

LESSON 2

Disaster

Target Words

1. anticipate
2. catastrophic
3. collide
4. eruption
5. famine
6. flood
7. impact
8. persevere
9. plunge
10. unleash

Definitions and Samples

1. **anticipate** *v.* To expect; to sense something before it happens

   By placing sensors in earthquake-prone areas, scientists can **anticipate** some tremors in time to warn the public.

   Parts of speech anticipation *n,* anticipatory *adj*

2. **catastrophic** *adj.* Extremely harmful; causing financial or physical ruin

   The architect died in a **catastrophic** elevator accident.

   Parts of speech catastrophe *n,* catastrophically *adv*

3. **collide** *v.* To come together with great or violent force

   As usual, their holiday was ruined when their in-laws' views on politics **collided** with their own.

   Parts of speech collision *n*

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4. **eruption** *n.* A sudden, often violent, outburst

The **eruption** of Mount St. Helens in 1980 caused 57 deaths and immeasurable change to the face of the mountain.

Usage tips *Eruption* is often followed by an *of* phrase.

Parts of speech erupt *v*

5. **famine** *n.* Severe hunger; a drastic food shortage

The potato **famine** in Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century caused large numbers of Irish people to emigrate to America.

6. **flood** *n.* An overflowing of water; an excessive amount

The constant rain and poor drainage system caused a **flood** in town.

The political party sent out a **flood** of letters criticizing their opponents.

Parts of speech flood *v*

7. **impact** *n.* A strong influence

The speech about the importance of education made an **impact** on me.

Usage tips *Impact* is usually followed by *on* or *of.*

Parts of speech impact *v*

8. **persevere** *v.* To keep going, despite obstacles or discouragement; to maintain a purpose

The hikers **persevered** despite the bad weather and the icy trail.

Parts of speech persist *v*, persistent *adj*

9. **plunge** *v.* To go down suddenly; to decrease by a great amount in a short time

He jumped off the diving board and **plunged** into the pool.

The value of the company's stock **plunged** after its chief executive was arrested.

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Usage tips *Plunge* is often followed by an *into* phrase.

Parts of speech plunge *n*

10. **unleash** *v.* To release a thing or an emotion

When they saw the strange man on their property, they **unleashed** their dogs.

He is from such an unemotional family, he will never learn to **unleash** his feelings.

TOEFL Prep I Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

_____ 1. persevere	(a) to pass by without hitting
_____ 2. anticipate	(b) to give up
_____ 3. famine	(c) to not see something coming
_____ 4. collide	(d) harmless
_____ 5. catastrophic	(e) excess of food

TOEFL Prep II Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

1. Residents of Hawaii must accept the possibility of a volcanic (eruption / perseverance).
2. Years after the accident, she was finally able to (anticipate / unleash) her feelings of anger.
3. Houses along the river often face (famine / flooding) during the rainy season.
4. Many people think it is cruel to (collide / plunge) live lobsters into boiling water.
5. A well-written essay should make some kind of (catastrophe / impact) on its readers.

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TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

Nature challenges humans in many ways, through disease, weather, and *famine*. For those living along the coast, one unusual phenomenon capable of *catastrophic* destruction is the tsunami (pronounced "tsoo-NAH-mee"). A tsunami is a series of waves generated in a body of water by an impulsive disturbance. Earthquakes, landslides, volcanic *eruptions*, explosions, and even the *impact* of meteorites can generate tsunamis. Starting at sea, a tsunami slowly approaches land, growing in height and losing energy through bottom friction and turbulence. Still, just like any other water waves, tsunamis *unleash* tremendous energy as they *plunge* onto the shore. They have great erosion potential, stripping beaches of sand, undermining trees, and *flooding* hundreds of meters inland. They can easily crush cars, homes, vegetation, and anything they *collide* with. To minimize the devastation of a tsunami, scientists are constantly trying to *anticipate* them more accurately and more quickly. Because many factors come together to produce a life-threatening tsunami, foreseeing them is not easy. **Despite this**, researchers in meteorology *persevere* in studying and predicting tsunami behavior.

Bonus Structure—**Despite this** *means "even so; regardless."*

1. Which sentence best expresses the essential information of this passage?
   a. Tsunamis could become a new source of usable energy in the next hundred years.
   b. Tsunamis do more damage to the land than flooding.
   c. Tsunamis can have an especially catastrophic impact on coastal communities.
   d. Scientists can predict and track tsunamis with a fair degree of accuracy, reducing their potential impact.

2. In the first sentence, why does the author mention weather?
   a. because tsunamis are caused by bad weather
   b. because tsunamis are more destructive than weather phenomena
   c. as an example of a destructive natural force
   d. as an introduction to the topic of coastal storms

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