

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. 
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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 | 3. injured / was / seriously / no one |
| 2. was / hailstones / struck / a car / by | 4. completely / a mall / destroyed / was / by / a fire |

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.
