

Ready for Anything

Every day, there are news reports about natural disasters, like floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes in the media. With extreme weather conditions occurring more and more often, you may want to be ready for them. There are three important things you should do at home to prepare.

In general, the first thing is to stock up on emergency supplies. You should keep enough food and water for at least three days in your house. Choose food that can be stored for a long time and food that can be eaten without cooking. Canned foods, such as soup, fish, meat, and fruit are good choices. You can also store dry foods like crackers and nuts. On top of that, be sure to store food that you like, and include a few special treats like candy or cookies. In an emergency situation, it's nice to have something to cheer you up. As well as that, it is important to include any special foods that babies, small children, or elderly people in your family may need. Another thing is water: be sure to keep plenty of it. Each person needs one gallon of water per day for drinking and basic washing.

Generally speaking, emergencies can occur in every country in the world, but it's important to think about equipment you might need for the kinds of disasters that are more likely in your country. You might need blankets, very warm clothes, flashlights, or plastic bags. In other words, think about possible situations, and buy the things that would be needed to cope with them.

In addition, plan what you will do in case you need to evacuate your home. In particular, decide where you will go and actually arrange a meeting place in advance, such as a relative's home or a big public building. Also, be sure that all family members have the phone number of a contact person in another city. In short, have a plan to find your family members if you become separated.

To sum up: people don't like to think about natural disasters, but a little bit of preparation can save lives. Following these steps will help you be ready for any kind of emergency.

In the event of an evacuation because of a natural disaster, you may need to protect your home from damage.



A Skim the article and choose the correct ending for each sentence. Two sentence endings are extra.

- _____ 1. The article explains how ...
- _____ 2. It provides suggestions about ...
- a. becoming separated from the rest of your family.
 - b. to be ready in case of a natural disaster.
 - c. having the right types of supplies and equipment.
 - d. to find the right types of supplies and equipment.

B Read the article again. Find words that mean the opposite of these words.

- _____ 1. everyday
- _____ 2. thrown away
- _____ 3. fresh
- _____ 4. young
- _____ 5. a little
- _____ 6. impossible
- _____ 7. stay in
- _____ 8. reunited

C Complete the sentences.

- 1. Canned foods are a good idea because _____
- 2. Treats are good because _____
- 3. Babies, children, and elderly people may need _____
- 4. People need one gallon _____
- 5. Other equipment depends on _____
- 6. You may not be able to stay in your home, so you need _____

D Read the article again. Complete the table of expressions that carry out the following functions.

Generalizing	Explaining/Giving details	Adding	Summarizing
In general,			