Listening activity 1

Instruction: Listen to the audio and complete the reading about Los Angles. The audio is going to play just 3 times.

Los Angeles - city on the _____•

City of Angels or City of Dangers?

_____, humans, aren't they !

Throughout history, _____ willingly set up home in areas of great danger, _____that from one day to the next, their civilization or their city could be devastated. _____, Minos, _____; history is full of the _____ or stories of cities that have perished.

Perhaps, one day, Los Angeles will join the list. .

_____, Angels may guard over the City of Angels; but It may be more appropriately, the city might be renamed the "City of Dangers".

_____, Los Angeles lies **astride** one of the most active _____ fault lines on our planet, the San Andreas Fault.

_____, city buildings tremble and **sway** as Los Angeles is rocked by an _____. Often, _____ worth of damage are done, and people get killed; but it doesn't have much effect on Angelenos. Few Angelenos pack their bags and move out of town after an earthquake; most **shrug** _____, and get on with the job, _____, enjoying life, _____, or whatever.

Yet as **seismologists** keep warning, the "_____" is coming. No one knows when it will strike, nor_____; but experts tend to _____ that at some time within the next_____, a mega-quake will strike somewhere in_____.

According to_____, whole sections of the ultra-chic L.A. suburbs of Palos Verdes and Malibu could slide into the sea (as little bits do_____); a major quake centered in the city in mid summer could set off fires that could rage uncontrolled for weeks on end. _____ to the extravagance of the disaster scenarios that can be imagined, as _____ - **on the spot** and **in the know** - has not failed to realize.

Other potential disasters

Yet a direct hit by the "Big One" is just one of many _____ that could **befall** L.A. If an earthquake or some other event were to cut off the city's water supplies for more than a day, L.A. would begin to fall apart. _____ on and around a hot coastal plain where it_____, L.A. can only survive thanks to vast aqueduct _____ that bring in millions of gallons of water a day from hundreds of miles away. A

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prolonged _____, or disruption of gasoline supplies, could be just as devastating.

The dry _____ round L.A. is also particularly susceptible to fire, as was demonstrated in recent years, when uncontrolable bush fires destroyed many luxury _____ on the **outskirts** of the city.

Apart from the fact that there is (as yet) no local _____ on the edge of L.A., and that _____ are unknown in this part of the U.S.A., the risk of _____ is greater in L.A. than any other U.S. city.

[End of recorded audio text]

WORDS

brink: edge **- astride:** on top of, on both sides of - **sway:** move from side to side **- earthquake:** when the earth trembles **- shrug:** raise **- seismologist:** scientist who studies earthquakes **- on the spot:** in this place **- in the know:** with all the information **- befall:** happen to **- power failure:** when all the lights go out **- outskirts:** peripheral districts, suburbs -

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