

## Listening activity 1

Instruction: Listen to the audio and complete the reading about Los Angeles. 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

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 uncontrollable 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 -