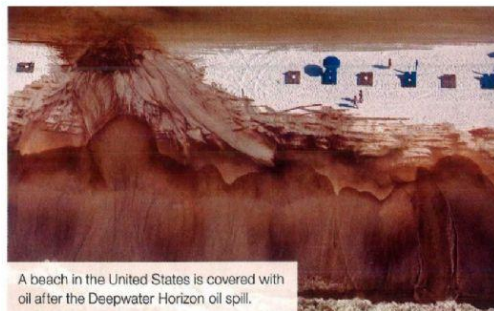


**Meaning from Context.** Read and listen to the news report about the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Notice the words in **blue**. These are words you will hear and use in Lesson A.

On April 20, 2010, one of the worst oil spills in history began in the Gulf of Mexico. The spill occurred at an oil rig, called the Deepwater Horizon, which is owned by the BP company. A buildup of pressure caused natural gas to shoot up suddenly from the ocean floor. The gas **triggered** a terrible explosion and a fire on the oil rig. After the explosion, the crew **abandoned** the platform and escaped in lifeboats. Unfortunately, eleven workers were never found.



A beach in the United States is covered with oil after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

For weeks, no one was sure just how much oil was being **released** into the Gulf of Mexico. Gradually, information about the damage from the oil spill **emerged**. It was discovered that between 50,000 to 60,000 barrels of oil a day were flowing into the Gulf. **Experts** from BP and other organizations tried to stop the spill, but it continued for nearly three months. By the time the leak was stopped, the beautiful blue waters of the Gulf had been **contaminated** with nearly 5 million barrels of oil.



The disaster did serious harm to the fishing and tourism industries in the southern United States. Pictures of birds that had been **exposed** to the thick oil appeared daily in the news. The American public **reacted** angrily, and the spill created a huge **controversy**. Some people even wanted to stop oil companies from drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. BP set aside 20 billion dollars to **compensate** fishermen, hotel owners, and store owners whose businesses were impacted by the spill.

Match each word in **blue** from exercise **A** with its definition. Use your dictionary to help you.

- |                      |       |  |
|----------------------|-------|--|
| 1. triggered (v.)    | _____ | a. to pay someone to replace lost money or things  |
| 2. abandoned (v.)    | _____ | b. became known; appeared  |
| 3. released (v.)     | _____ | c. responded to  |
| 4. emerged (v.)      | _____ | d. caused an event to begin to happen  |
| 5. experts (n.)      | _____ | e. left a place, thing, or person permanently  |
| 6. contaminated (v.) | _____ | f. people who are very skilled or who know a lot about a particular subject                        |
| 7. exposed (v.)      | _____ | g. entered the surrounding atmosphere or area; freed   |
| 8. reacted (v.)      | _____ | h. a disagreement, especially about a public policy or moral issue that people feel strongly about |
| 9. controversy (n.)  | _____ | i. made something dirty, harmful, or dangerous because of chemicals or radiation                   |
| 10. compensate (v.)  | _____ | j. placed in a dangerous situation   |

Read the interview and fill in each blank with the correct form of the word from the box. Use each word only once.

abandon

controversy

expert

react

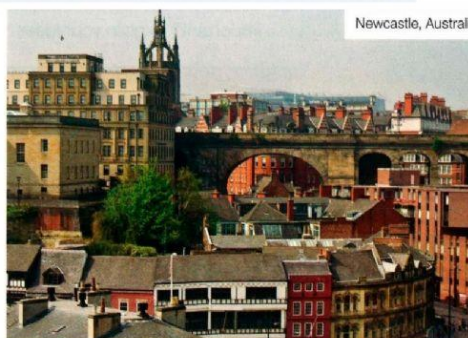
trigger

**Q:** Can mining for energy sources such as coal and oil cause natural disasters?

**A:** Some people think so. For example, in 1989, there was an earthquake in the city of Newcastle, Australia. Some (1) \_\_\_\_\_ said it was (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by coal mining in the area. Others thought there was no way that mining 2297 feet (700 meters) down could cause an earthquake 6 miles (10 kilometers) beneath the surface of the earth.

**Q:** How did the public (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the experts' opinion?

**A:** Well, it created a great deal of (4) \_\_\_\_\_. A lot of people called for an end to coal mining in Newcastle. John Tate, the Lord Mayor of the city at the time, said there was no chance Newcastle would (5) \_\_\_\_\_ coal mining.



Newcastle, Australia