

- 1 a) Check these words in the Word List.

- triggered • massive tsunami
- ground started shaking
- siren • huge cracks
- colossal wave • flooded
- evacuated residents
- washed away
- scale of the devastation
- heaps of rubble
- ruins and debris

b) The words are from the text. Read the first sentence in each paragraph. What is the text about?

Listen, read and check.

- 2 Read the text and for questions 1-6 choose the best answer A, B, C or D. Give reasons for your answers. What type of text is it?

- 1 The first sign of the earthquake was
 - A the cold weather.
 - B the earthquake siren.
 - C a ground movement.
 - D cracks in the road.
- 2 It took 30 minutes for
 - A the sea to break the water barrier.
 - B the town to be evacuated.
 - C the entire town to be flooded.
 - D Iris and the camera crew to climb the hill.
- 3 The man who escaped from a building
 - A was one of several who escaped.
 - B couldn't do anything to save his parents.
 - C managed to rescue two others.
 - D couldn't believe how lucky he was.
- 4 By Sunday morning
 - A all food supplies had run out.
 - B the worst of the emergency was over.
 - C a further tsunami warning was expected.
 - D the water level was still rising.

The day the TSUNAMI STRUCK

In March 2011, Japan suffered the biggest earthquake in its history. The quake triggered an equally massive tsunami with waves reaching up to 15 metres high. Overseas news reporter Iris Morgan was there. This is her story.

Friday, 11th March, 2011 started as an ordinary day. I was with my camera crew covering a story about the scallop fishermen of the Miyagi prefecture. It was a cold afternoon with a dark sky and it looked like it might snow. I was just finishing the interview when, suddenly, around 14:45, the ground started shaking beneath our feet. Even before the siren started to sound over the town, we knew it must be an earthquake! It became impossible to stand. In a moment, enormous cracks appeared in the road.

- 5 When Iris Morgan returned to the town,
 - A the streets were blocked with rubble.
 - B she met many homeless people.
 - C no building was left standing.
 - D she was amazed at what she saw.
- 6 In the last paragraph the local man feels
 - A confused.
 - B angry.
 - C surprised.
 - D determined.

Local people said a tsunami was approaching and urged us to get away as soon as possible. We climbed to higher ground above the town and waited. A short time later we saw the sea rise up in a colossal wave and completely destroy the breakwater that was protecting the coastline. We watched helplessly as the water flooded into the town streets and washed away everything in its path. It seemed the whole town was afloat. Cars, trees, even rows of houses were swept along in the raging torrent.

The rising sea soon engulfed the whole town. It had taken only 30 minutes. Up on the hill, we huddled together with the evacuated residents and tried to keep warm. We were in a state of shock and couldn't believe how rapidly it had all happened. One man told me he had escaped from a building just before it was washed away. He saw many people washed away with it. Two of them were his parents; he had been unable to reach them and thought they must have drowned.

We spent two nights up there on the hill. On Sunday morning, as the water started to recede, we guessed there would be no further tsunami warnings. We were also extremely hungry, so we decided to venture back down to the town in the unlikely hope of finding some food. We couldn't believe our eyes when we saw the scale of the devastation. Whole streets of houses had been flattened and were now reduced to heaps of rubble. Some very weird sights greeted us: a double-decker bus that had been carried along in the flood was now perched on top of a three-storey building, while somebody's former home stood upon the roof of a primary school.

As we walked on, shocked and silent, I wondered if the town could ever return to normal. A local woman was shaking her head as she wandered down the road. "I don't know if it's good or bad that I survived," she said as we passed by. Hearing her words, another man left with nothing spoke out: "Those of us who are left have a duty to help each other in any way possible. No one is allowed to give up!" Standing together among the ruins and debris, we knew he was right.

Check these words

• massive • prefecture • urge • colossal wave
• breakwater • afloat • raging torrent • engulf
• huddle • drown • recede • venture
• devastation • heaps of rubble • shake head
• duty • ruins • debris

3 Decide if each statement is **True or False**. Explain your answers by quoting the text.

- 1 Iris Morgan went to Japan to report on the tsunami.
- 2 Nobody expected the earthquake to be followed by a tsunami.
- 3 Food was scarce after the disaster.
- 4 In some streets all the houses had been destroyed.

4 In your own words and based on the information in the text, answer the questions.

- 1 Why did the people move to a higher position?
- 2 How did Iris Morgan feel when she saw the damage?
- 3 How did one man show a positive attitude in the face of the disaster?

5 Find the words in the text which mean:

- usual (para A) • huge (para A)
- to come close (para B)
- to strongly advise (para B) • to completely cover (para C)
- quickly (para C)
- to go back (para D)
- piles (para D)
- to walk aimlessly (para E)
- obligation (para E)

What part of speech is each word?

6 Write the nouns derived from the words below. Check in your dictionaries.

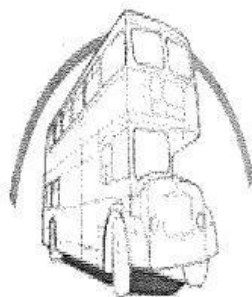
- possible • reside
- destroy • think
- devastate • survive

Speaking

Make notes under the headings: **Type of disaster** - **Place and date/time** - **Events** - **Damage caused**. Use your notes and tell the class a summary of the text.

Writing

THINK! Imagine you are a reporter covering an earthquake. You are interviewing survivors. What would you ask them? In three minutes write a few questions. Then write an interview. Tell the class.



ΑΝΑΡΙΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ

ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΞΕΝΩΝ ΓΛΩΣΣΩΝ

Unit 8a

1. triggered:
2. equally massive tsunami:
3. the ground started shaking:
4. the siren started to sound:
5. enormous cracks:
6. approaching:
7. urged:
8. a colossal wave:
9. completely destroy:
10. coastline:
11. washed away:
12. afloat:
13. swept along:
14. raging torrent:
15. engulfed:
16. huddled together:
17. evacuated residents:
18. in a state of shock:
19. how rapidly:
20. the water started to recede:
21. no further tsunami warnings:
22. venture back:
23. the scale of the devastation:
24. flattened:
25. reduced to heaps of rubble:
26. weird sights:
27. perched:
28. wandered:
29. the ruins and debris: