

## ▪ Natural disasters

### A Match the disasters to their descriptions.

1	avalanche	a	overflowing of a large amount of water
2	drought	b	storm with violent wind
3	earthquake	c	sudden explosion or outpouring of lava
4	flood	d	mass of snow falling rapidly down a mountain
5	hurricane	e	massive, dangerous wave of water
6	landslide	f	long period of time when there is no rain
7	tsunami	g	mass of rocks or soil falling down a cliff or mountain
8	volcanic eruption	h	a sudden and violent shaking of the ground

### B Complete the sentences with a word/phrase from the list

• ash • collapsed • aftershocks • underwater • rubble • overflowed

- 1 The main earthquake was followed by several less powerful .....
- 2 After two days of rain the river ..... its banks.
- 3 Rescuers have pulled several people from under the .....
- 4 The tsunami left several villages .....
- 5 The huge cloud of ..... could be seen miles away.
- 6 Several buildings ..... during the earthquake.

## ▪ The weather

### C Choose the correct item.

- 1 It had been a very hot day but a cool **gale/breeze** started blowing in the afternoon.
- 2 We were having fun on our picnic, when an unexpected **downpour/drizzle** ruined everything.
- 3 It was a dark night and the wind was **howling/pouring**, making the atmosphere seem like a scene from a horror film.
- 4 Drivers were warned that heavy **snowdrifts/snowfalls** were expected that day.
- 5 The **torrential/blazing** rain caused the streets of the small town to flood within minutes.
- 6 According to the weather forecast, temperatures will reach up to 42° C during the **heat/sun** wave.
- 7 The weather was getting worse so they cancelled their ski trip for fear of getting stuck in a **shower/blizzard**.
- 8 A glorious sun **rose/arose** after a whole night of non-stop rain.
- 9 A bright **clap/bolt** of lightning tore across the night sky.
- 10 Sarah was really upset to discover that a huge hail **stone/flake** had cracked the windscreen of her brand new car.

**D Fill in:** *sheet, gust, freeze, snowstorm, shine, flake* in the correct form.

Hi Marta,

Greetings from icy cold Scotland! I've been in Elgin for two weeks now, and I'm still

1) .....

Last night was the worst so far. The day started with a few 2) ..... of snow falling lightly on the ground but, nearly an hour later, this turned into a severe

3) ..... . All that snow froze overnight and so this morning

everything was covered in a 4) ..... of very slippery ice. I can't wait to get back home, where the sun 5) ..... nearly all year round, and the most severe weather we get is a strong 6) ..... of wind blowing our sunhats off our heads!

Anyway, enough about the weather! Write back and let me know how you're doing.

Take care,

Sonia

**E Replace the incorrect word in brackets with the correct one from the list.**

• below • cool • forecast • heavy • blazing • strong

- 1 The open-air concert was cancelled due to ..... (**violent**) rain.
- 2 The airport was closed due to extremely ..... (**tough**) winds.
- 3 The air-conditioning system sent ..... (**chilly**) air through the office.
- 4 Temperatures rarely fall ..... (**under**) zero here.
- 5 He was very thirsty after walking miles in the ..... (**heating**) sun.
- 6 Do you know what the weather ..... (**prediction**) is?

**F Choose the correct item.**

- 1 A: Has Nora recovered from the accident?  
B: She is still in a **condition/state** of shock, actually.
- 2 A: What shall we do?  
B: Relax. There is no cause for **alert/alarm**.
- 3 A: Did Joe like your idea of a holiday abroad?  
B: No, he just **swayed/shook** his head in disagreement.
- 4 A: Do you think we'll see any dolphins during our sailing trip?  
B: Yes, it's quite **common/ordinary** to see them this time of year.
- 5 A: I don't want to go out in this weather.  
B: OK, I'm not going to **force/urge** you.
- 6 A: Why did so many people lose their lives?  
B: There was no time to give a tsunami **warning/notification**

