

disaster

1 Verb + disaster

Use the correct form of these verbs:

avert court head for
spell end in strike

1. Disaster when the plane's engine failed shortly after take-off.
2. An airliner came close to disaster while approaching Kennedy Airport yesterday. Fortunately, the disaster was narrowly by the quick reactions of the pilot.
3. The business was financial disaster until a new manager arrived to save the situation.
4. The discovery of foot and mouth disease in British cattle disaster for many British farmers. Many went out of business as a result.
5. Drinking and driving is stupid and irresponsible. If you do it, you are simply disaster.
6. The trip to the island disaster when the small boat we were in hit a rock and sank in a matter of minutes.

Go back and underline the verb collocations.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

ecological impending major
nuclear natural utter

1. There's not much you can do about disasters like floods and earthquakes.
2. I'm not going to bore you with all the details. It's enough to say that the whole event was a total and disaster.
3. Many scientists believe that the destruction of the rain forests is an disaster that threatens the future of life on Earth.
4. When the emergency services arrived at the scene of the accident, they soon realised that they had a disaster on their hands.
5. On the morning of the final climb to the summit of Mt Everest, I woke with an overwhelming feeling of disaster. I was right. Two of our party of seven died that day.
6. Everyone knew before it happened that Chernobyl was a disaster waiting to happen.

3 Noun + preposition + disaster

Complete the sentences below with a suitable preposition:

1. It was impossible to comprehend the full scale the disaster.
2. Following the rail crash, the government has promised a full investigation the disaster.
3. The reason the disaster was engine failure, not human error.
4. Hospitals up to fifty miles from the site the disaster were inundated with casualties.
5. The recent wave of strikes has brought the country to the brink economic disaster.
6. Letting Fernando organise the trip is a recipe disaster. Everything is likely to go wrong.
7. The earthquake is just the latest in a long line disasters that have hit the country recently.
8. The director accepted full responsibility the disaster and resigned on the spot.

Now go back and underline the complete expressions. The first is done for you.

Notes

1. In 2-4 you could also say a 'full-scale disaster'.
2. Note the following ways of saying something is a complete disaster:
The trip was an unmitigated disaster from start to finish.
The whole project was an out-and-out disaster.
3. If you say somebody is 'a walking disaster', you mean they are always having accidents:
He's broken his leg again! That boy is a walking disaster!
Everything happens to him.
4. Note the expression in 2-6 – *a disaster waiting to happen*. It is similar in meaning to the expression in 3-6 – *a recipe for disaster*:
This plan to open offices in every major European city is a recipe for financial disaster.
5. 'A disaster area' or 'disaster zone' is one where something awful has happened:
The government officially declared the town a disaster area after the typhoon destroyed most of the buildings.