

# Global problems

الإحتيااس الحزري

D:4

## A Disasters/tragedies

**NOTE**

injure /'ɪndʒə/  
[people],  
damage  
/'dæmɪdʒ/  
[things]:  
200 people  
were injured.  
Buildings were  
damaged.

earthquakes [the earth moves/trembles]

drought /draʊt/ [no rain]

explosions [e.g. a bomb]

hurricanes/tornadoes /tɔ:'neɪdəʊz/  
typhoons [violent winds / storms]

volcanoes /vɒl'keɪnəʊz/ [hot liquid  
rock and gases pour from a mountain]



famine /'fæmɪn/ [no food]

floods [too much rain]

major accidents  
[e.g. a plane crash]

epidemics [diseases affecting  
large numbers of people]

war / civil war [civil war is war  
between people of the same country]

Disasters not caused by human beings can be called **natural disasters**.

### Verbs connected with these words

A volcano has **erupted** in Indonesia. Hundreds are feared dead.  
The flu epidemic spread rapidly throughout the country. Millions are **starving** as a result of the famine.  
A big earthquake **shook** the city at noon today. The area is **suffering** its worst drought for many years.  
Civil war has **broken out** in the north of the country. A tornado swept through the islands yesterday.

## B Words for people involved in disasters/tragedies

The explosion resulted in 300 **casualties**. [dead and injured people]

The real **victims** of civil war are children left without parents. [those who suffer the results]

There were only three **survivors**. All the other passengers were reported dead. [people who live through a disaster]

Thousands of **refugees** have crossed the border looking for food and shelter.

During the battle, the dead and **wounded** were flown out in helicopters. [wounded: injured in a battle / by a weapon]

## C Headlines

Here are some headlines from newspapers all connected with diseases and epidemics. Explanations are given.

/'reɪbi:z/ disease can be caused by bite from a dog, fox, etc: very serious

**Rabies** out of control in many parts of Asia

**Cholera** and **typhoid** injections not needed says Tourism Minister

/'kɒləərə/ /'tɒfɔɪd/ diseases causing sickness, diarrhoea etc.; caused often by infected food and water

/mə'leəriə/ usually caught because of mosquito bites

New **malaria** drug tested

tropical disease; skin goes yellow

**yellow fever** figures drop

acquired immune deficiency syndrome; often caused by sexual contact or contact with contaminated blood

New **AIDS** unit to be opened this month

/'leprəsi/ terrible skin disease; leaves the skin deformed

Minister says fight against **leprosy** goes on

## Exercises

**42.1** What type of disaster from the list in A opposite are these sentences about? Why?

EXAMPLE The lava flow destroyed three villages. *Volcano; lava is the hot rocks and metal*

- 1 The earth is cracked and vegetation has withered.
- 2 The tremor struck at 3.35 p.m. local time.
- 3 People had boarded up shops and houses during the day before, and stayed indoors.
- 4 Shelling and mortar fire could be heard all over the town.
- 5 Witnesses said they saw a fire-ball fall out of the sky.
- 6 People had to stay in the upper floors and sometimes on the roofs of their homes.

**42.2** Complete the missing items in this word-class table, using a dictionary if necessary. Where there is a dash (-), you do not need to write anything.

verb	noun: thing or idea	noun: person
.....	explosion	-
.....	.....	survivor
injure	.....	.....
starve	.....	.....
erupt	.....	-

**42.3** In these headlines, say whether the situation seems to be getting *worse* or *better*, or whether a disaster has *happened* or has been *avoided/prevented*.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1<br><b>Poison gas<br/>cloud spreads</b>     | 3<br><b>OIL SLICK<br/>RECEDES</b>           | 5<br><b>All survive jumbo<br/>emergency landing</b> |
| 2<br><b>POLICE DEFUSE<br/>TERRORIST BOMB</b> | 4<br><b>AIDS time-bomb<br/>ticking away</b> | 6<br><b>Flood warnings<br/>not heeded in time</b>   |

**42.4** Fill the gaps with a suitable word from B opposite. Try to work from memory.

- 1 Another 50 people died today, all ..... of the famine.
- 2 The government agreed to allow 3,000 war ..... to enter the country.
- 3 It was the worst road accident the country has ever seen, with over 120 .....
- 4 A: Were there any ..... when the ship sank? B: I'm afraid not.
- 5 The ..... and ..... were left lying on the battlefield; it was a disgrace.

**42.5** Which diseases are we talking about? Try to do this from memory.

- 1 One that can be caused by a mosquito bite.
- 2 One that leaves the skin badly deformed.
- 3 One you can get by drinking infected water.
- 4 One you can get from an animal bite.
- 5 One that makes the skin go yellow.

Do people get any of these diseases in your country?

**Follow-up:** Look at an English-language newspaper and see how many of the global problems mentioned in this unit are reported. Cut out any articles you find, and make a list of the vocabulary for each topic in your notebook.

The environment

(بسته)

**A** You have to be careful about the use of 'the' with features of the environment.

	use with the?	example
countries	no	France
countries which are in a plural form	yes	The USA
countries when limited by time	yes	The Japan of today
individual mountains	no	Mount Everest
mountains in the Bernese Oberland	yes	The Jungfrau /'jʊŋfrau/
mountain chains	yes	The Himalayas /hɪmə'leɪjəz/
islands	no	Sicily
groups of islands	yes	The West Indies
rivers	yes	The Volga
oceans	yes	The Pacific
seas	yes	The Mediterranean /medɪtə'reɪniən/
gulfs, bays and straits	yes	The Gulf of Mexico / The Bay of Biscay
lakes	no	Lake Erie
currents	yes	The Gulf Stream

مفرد  
سلسله  
تعداد  
مجموعه  
دریا  
خلیج  
تنگنا  
رودخانه

**B** Look at this encyclopedia entry about Iceland. Note the words in bold.

**Iceland** An island republic in the North Atlantic. The **landscape** consists largely of **barren plains** [flat land where little grows] and **mountains**, with large **ice fields** particularly in the south west. The island has **active volcanoes** [they still erupt] and is known for its **thermal** [hot] springs and **geysers** [warm water that fountains out of the ground]. With less than 1% of the land suitable for growing **crops** [food that is grown], the nation's **economy** is based on fishing, and fish products account for 80% of the exports. Area: 103,000 km<sup>2</sup>. **Population**: 227,000. **Capital**: Reykjavik.

مناطق  
بسته  
مناطق  
مناطق  
مناطق

مناطق  
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مناطق

**C** Here are some other nouns which are useful when talking about the environment. Check their meanings in a dictionary if necessary.

① طویل  
② دریا

Where land meets sea: **coast**, **shore**, **beach**, **cliff**, **cape**, **peninsula**, **cove**, **bay**, **gulf**  
 Words connected with rivers: **source**, **tributary**, **waterfall**, **mouth**, **valley**, **gorge**, **delta**, **brook**, **stream**, **estuary**  
 Words connected with mountains: **foot**, **ridge**, **peak**, **summit**, **glacier**

شبه جزیره  
دریا  
کوه  
کوه  
کوه

**D** There are many environmental problems in the world today.

① ملوث  
② دریا  
③ فلات  
④ صحرای بادیه  
⑤ تپه

The air, rivers and seas are all **polluted**, especially in **over-populated** and heavily industrialised regions. **Poor waste disposal** is the cause of much of this **pollution**. **Overfishing** has depleted the numbers of fish in the oceans. The **destruction of the ozone layer** is leading to climatic changes and what is known as the **greenhouse effect**. The **destruction of the rainforests** is causing widespread ecological problems. **Battery farming** provides large amounts of food but it involves keeping animals in crowded and unnatural conditions.

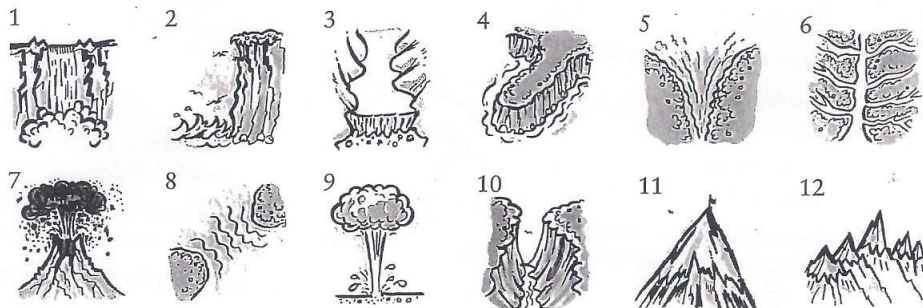
آلودگی

**TIP** Write down the English names for the main geographical features in your country. Check how these names are pronounced as English may have taken the names of the features from your language but may have anglicised their pronunciation.

## Exercises

*h.w*

49.1 Label the pictures below.



49.2 In the paragraph below all the instances of *the* have been omitted. Insert them wherever they are necessary.

Brazil is fifth largest country in world. In north, densely forested basin of River Amazon covers half country. In east, country is washed by Atlantic. Highest mountain chain in South America, Andes, does not lie in Brazil. Brazil's most famous city is Rio de Janeiro, former capital. Capital of Brazil today is Brasilia.

49.3 Can you answer the following general knowledge questions about the environment?

- 1 What is the highest mountain in Africa?
- 2 What is the longest river in Europe?
- 3 Where is the highest waterfall in the world?
- 4 Name another country, apart from Iceland, which has geysers and hot springs.
- 5 What is a delta and which famous river has one?
- 6 Where are the Straits of Gibraltar and the Cape of Good Hope?

49.4 Complete the paragraph below about your own country, or any other country that interests you. Remember to use 'the' whenever it is necessary.

.....<sup>(1)</sup> is a .....<sup>(2)</sup> in .....<sup>(3)</sup>. The countryside is .....<sup>(4)</sup> in the north and .....<sup>(5)</sup> in the south. The country's economy is based on .....<sup>(6)</sup>. The best-known river in .....<sup>(7)</sup> is .....<sup>(8)</sup>. The most famous chain of mountains is .....<sup>(9)</sup> and the highest mountain in that chain is .....<sup>(10)</sup>. .....<sup>(11)</sup> is a major environmental problem in .....<sup>(12)</sup> today.

49.5 Give two nouns from the opposite page to go with the adjectives below. Try not to repeat any of the nouns you choose.

- 1 sandy    2 steep    3 shallow    4 rocky    5 turbulent    6 dangerous

49.6 Answer these questions about being environmentally friendly.

- 1 Why do environmentalists say we should avoid spray cans?
- 2 Why are environmentalists in favour of practising organic farming and using unleaded petrol?
- 3 Why do environmentalists encourage us to use recycled paper and bottle banks?
- 4 What else are environmentalists in favour of?