

Topic 2 ENVIRONMENT

1. Vocabulary

1. Anticipate	An *tj ci pate	6. Flood	*Flood
2. Catastrophic	Ca ta *stro phic	7. Impact	*Im pact
3. Collide	Co *llide	8. Persevere	Per se *vere
4. Eruption	E *rup tion	9. Plunge	*Plunge
5. Famine	*Fa mine	10. Unleash	Un *leash

2. Definitions and Samples

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Usage Tips	Parts of Speech
1	Anticipate	<i>v</i>	To expect; to sense something before it happens	By placing sensors in earthquake-prone areas, scientists can anticipate some tremors in time to warn the public.		Anticipation n Anticipatory adj
2	Catastrophic	<i>adj</i>	Extremely harmful; causing financial or physical ruin	The architect died in a catastrophic elevator accident.		Catastrophe n Catastrophically adv
3	Collide	<i>v</i>	To come together with great or violent force	As usual, their holiday was ruined when their in-laws' views on politics collided with their own.		Collision n
4	Eruption	<i>n</i>	A sudden, often violent, outburst	The eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 caused 57 deaths and immeasurable change to the face of the mountain.	Eruption is often followed by an “ <i>of</i> ” phrase.	Erupt v
5	Famine	<i>n</i>	Severe hunger; a drastic food shortage	The potato famine in Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century caused large numbers of Irish people to emigrate to America.		

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Usage Tips	Parts of Speech
6	Flood	<i>n</i>	An overflowing of water. An excessive amount.	The constant rain and poor drainage system caused a flood in town. The political party sent out a flood of letters criticizing their opponents.		Flood v
7	Impact	<i>n</i>	A strong influence	The speech about the importance of education made an impact on me.	Impact is usually followed by “ <i>on</i> ” or “ <i>of</i> ”	Impact v
8	Persevere	<i>v</i>	To keep going, despite obstacles or discouragement; to maintain a purpose	The hikers persevered despite the bad weather and the icy trail.		Persist v Persistent adj
9	Plunge	<i>v</i>	To go down suddenly. To decrease by a great amount in a short time	He jumped off the diving board and plunged into the pool. The value of the company’s stock plunged after its chief executive was arrested.	Plunge is often followed by an “ <i>into</i> ” phrase.	Plunge n
10	Unleash	<i>v</i>	To release a thing or an emotion	When they saw the strange man on their property, they unleashed their dogs. He is from such an unemotional family, he will never learn to unleash his feelings.		

3. Vocabulary Practice

A. Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____ 1. | Persevere | (a) to pass by without hitting |
| _____ 2. | Anticipate | (b) to give up |
| _____ 3. | Famine | (c) to not see something coming |
| _____ 4. | Collide | (d) harmless |
| _____ 5. | Catastrophic | (e) excess of food |

B. Circle the word that best completes each sentence

1. Residents of Hawaii must accept the possibility of a volcanic (**eruption / perseverance**).
2. Years after the accident, she was finally able to (**anticipate / unleash**) her feelings of anger.
3. Houses along the river often face (**famine / flooding**) during the rainy season.
4. Many people think it is cruel to (**collide / plunge**) live lobsters into boiling water.
5. A well-written essay should make some kind of (**catastrophe / impact**) on its readers.

4. Reading (The MP3 is available online)

Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

Nature challenges humans in many ways, through disease, weather, and *famine*. For those living along the coast, one unusual phenomenon capable of *catastrophic* destruction is the tsunami (pronounced “tsoo-NAH-mee”). A tsunami is a series of waves generated in a body of water by an impulsive disturbance. Earthquakes, landslides, volcanic *eruptions*, explosions, and even the *impact* of meteorites can generate tsunamis. Starting at sea, a tsunami slowly approaches land, growing in height and losing energy through bottom friction and turbulence. Still, just like any other water waves, tsunamis *unleash* tremendous energy as they *plunge* onto the shore. They have great erosion potential, stripping beaches of sand, undermining trees, and *flooding* hundreds of meters inland.

They can easily crush cars, homes, vegetation, and anything they *collide* with. To minimize the devastation of a tsunami, scientists are constantly trying to *anticipate* them more accurately and more quickly. Because many factors come together to produce a life-threatening tsunami, foreseeing them is not easy. **Despite this**, researchers in meteorology *persevere* in studying and predicting tsunami behavior.

Bonus Structure— Despite this <i>means “even so; regardless.”</i>

5. Reading Practice

- A. Which sentence best expresses the essential information of this passage?
- a. Tsunamis could become a new source of usable energy in the next hundred years.
 - b. Tsunamis do more damage to the land than flooding.
 - c. Tsunamis can have an especially catastrophic impact on coastal communities.
 - d. Scientists can predict and track tsunamis with a fair degree of accuracy, reducing their potential impact.
- B. In the first sentence, why does the author mention **weather**?
- a. because tsunamis are caused by bad weather
 - b. because tsunamis are more destructive than weather phenomena
 - c. as an example of a destructive natural force
 - d. as an introduction to the topic of coastal storms

6. Phrasal Verb

These *Phrasal Verbs* are very common in relation to **Disasters and the Environment**.

Phrase	Meaning	Collocation	Structure	Example
Blow over	A storm which passes by causing little or no damage.	Storm	Inseparable No Object	We are hoping that the storm will blow over .
Cave in	To collapse, to fall in on.	Roof	Inseparable No Object	Two people were injured when the roof of their home caved in under the weight of the snow.
Clean up	To tidy up a place after a disaster.	Mess	Separable Object Clean + up + O Clean + O +up Clean + OPr + up	As soon as the water started receding, we began the clean-up process.
Ride out	To wait patiently during a storm until it is over.	Storm	Separable Object Ride + out + O Ride + O + out Ride + OPr + out	You should carefully choose and prepare a safe place to ride out the storm .
Rip through	To move through a place quickly causing a lot of damage and destruction.		Inseparable No Object	Twenty-four families are still without a home after fire ripped through their apartment complex on Tuesday.

7. Phrasal Verb Practice

Please put the correct *Phrasal Verb* into the sentence below. Please change the form of the Phrasal Verb if needed.

blow over cave in rip through clean up ride out

1. After the disaster volunteers from around the world helped _____ the mess.
2. The fire _____ the house, killing one person and injuring another.
3. The trapped miners have been underground for 5 days now, following the devastating _____ last week.
4. Local radio channels are asking people to _____ the heavy winds in underground shelters and not to venture outside until the storm passes.
5. The storm due to hit this evening might _____ as strong winds from the east are pushing it further west.

8. Conversation Strategies

Tip: When you speak, try to use the **Coordinating Conjunctions** below; they will help you make longer sentences.

,and

,but

because

,so

Example:

- A. I went to the movie theater. I watched Avatar. I didn't like it. The story was terrible. I will not recommend it to my friends.
- B. I went to the movie theater **and** watched Avatar, **but** I didn't like it **because** the story was terrible, **so** I will not recommend it to me friends.

9. Conversation Strategy Practice

Please use **and - but – because - so** to join the following sentences. There can be more than one answer.

I didn't know what to do.

I asked him for help.

He helped me.

It was fine after that.

10. Idioms

These *Idioms* are very common and they are connected to **the Environment**.

Idiom	Meaning	Situation	Example
Ripple effect	When an action has an effect on something, which in turn affects something else, it is said to have a ripple effect.		Car pollution has a ripple effect on the environment, adding to global warming.
Hear the grass grow	To hear very well due to being in an exceptionally quiet environment.		On Sunday morning I walked outside, and you could hear the grass grow . All the kids were still in bed.
Fresh off the boat	Newly arrived from a foreign place, especially as an immigrant who is still unfamiliar with the customs and language of his or her new environment.		People who are fresh off the boat in Daegu might find it difficult to get around the city.
Down to earth	Down to earth describes someone or something that is free of pretension and doesn't put on airs, but who is instead simple and straight-forward.		An example of down to earth is a person who buys a nice cozy farmhouse instead of a giant mansion.
A recipe for disaster	If you refer to a plan or an idea as a recipe for disaster, you think it is likely to produce bad results.		Transporting oil around the world by oil tanker has always seemed to me like a recipe for disaster .

11. Idiom Practice

Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each idiom in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ down to earth | a. someone who has been in a place a long time |
| 2. _____ hear the grass grow | b. no problem |
| 3. _____ ripple effect | c. noisy |
| 4. _____ fresh off the boat | d. not a nice person |
| 5. _____ a recipe for disaster | e. a contained action |