

e-lesson

Week starting: August 23, 2010

1. Disaster in Pakistan

This week's lesson is about the terrible floods currently affecting millions of people in Pakistan.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Introduce or elicit the expression *natural disaster*, and ask your students for examples. If they haven't already mentioned the floods in Pakistan, ask them what natural disaster is currently in the news. What do they know about the effects of the floods, and about the relief efforts?

2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.

3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the true/false/doesn't say questions in Exercise 1 and the comprehension questions in Exercise 2.

4. Check answers in open class.

5. Ask the students to put away Worksheets A and B or to temporarily hand them back to you. Then, keeping the students in pairs, hand out Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A, and give them another ten minutes for the fill-in-the-blanks exercise, in which they have to complete the missing words. If the students cannot remember what the words are, encourage them to try to figure them out from the context of the sentence. You might also want to point out that many of the words feature in the glossary (or, to make it more difficult, you could ask the students not to use their glossaries).

6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. D 2. F 3. T 4. D 5. T 6. D 7. T 8. T 9. F 10. D

Exercise 2

1. Because a lot of the land is underwater.
2. The tsunami that hit some coastal areas of south and south-east Asia in 2004.
3. In remote areas in the far north of the country.
4. Because it is the anniversary of the country's independence (from the UK or the British Empire).
5. Malaria (spread by mosquitoes).
6. Because a vast area of crops has been ruined.
7. Roads, bridges, and railroad tracks.
8. Because cholera is a disease that can easily spread in flood conditions.

Exercise 3

1. victims
2. natural
3. estimates
4. temporarily
5. vast
6. crops
7. ruined
8. spread
9. huge
10. mosquitoes
11. breed
12. homeless
13. remote
14. underwater
15. charities
16. mark
17. independence
18. Empire
19. canceled
20. mood

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE66T3RS20100819>

A Reuters news article (August 19) about the Pakistan floods, with a picture slideshow and a short video. Accessible to intermediate level.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/kindness/post/2010/08/how-to-help-the-victims-of-the-pakistan-floods/1>

A *USA Today* article (August 12) listing different charities that are involved in providing aid to Pakistan and what each is doing to help. Challenging for intermediate level.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2010/08/201081442342515262.html>

An Al Jazeera report (August 14) and news video on the disaster and its related health, disease, and hygiene concerns. Challenging for intermediate level.