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Level 1 – 28th December, 2018

Japan chooses 'disaster' to describe 2018

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster-1.html>

This year is nearly over. For some people, it was a great year; for others, it wasn't. Japanese people have chosen the *kanji* (Chinese character) they thought described 2018. The winning *kanji* means "disaster". This was because of the many natural disasters in Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people died in these disasters. Many roads and houses were destroyed.

The Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation has found a "*kanji* of the year" since 1995. This year, 193,214 people voted. The second most popular *kanji* was "peace". Last year, "north" was the winner, because of North Korea's nuclear tests. The world was also hit by natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. There were wars in Syria and Yemen. There was suffering because of immigration. People hope next year's *kanji* will be "happiness".

Sources: [https://japantoday.com/category/national/\(disaster\)-chosen-as-kanji-character-best-representing-2018](https://japantoday.com/category/national/(disaster)-chosen-as-kanji-character-best-representing-2018)
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/12/12/national/kanji-year-meaning-disaster-symbolizes-2018-amid-natural-human-calamities/>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6495315/Japan-selects-Chinese-disaster-character-symbol-2018-following-natural-disasters.html>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster-1.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. For some people, it was | a. typhoons |
| 2. Chinese | b. "disaster" |
| 3. The winning <i>kanji</i> means | c. were destroyed |
| 4. because of the many | d. character |
| 5. Japan was hit by | e. in these disasters |
| 6. a killer | f. natural disasters |
| 7. Hundreds of people died | g. a great year |
| 8. Many roads and houses | h. heatwave |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 193,214 people | a. in Syria and Yemen |
| 2. The second most popular | b. by natural disasters |
| 3. North Korea's nuclear | c. be "happiness" |
| 4. The world was also hit | d. <i>kanji</i> was "peace" |
| 5. wildfires, hurricanes | e. of immigration |
| 6. There were wars | f. tests |
| 7. There was suffering because | g. and tsunami |
| 8. next year's <i>kanji</i> will | h. voted |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster-1.html>

This year (1) _____. For some people, it was a great year; for (2) _____. Japanese people have chosen the *kanji* (Chinese character) (3) _____ 2018. The winning *kanji* means "disaster". This was because of (4) _____ disasters in Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by typhoons, earthquakes, (5) _____ a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people died in these disasters. Many roads and (6) _____.

The Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation (1) _____ "*kanji* of the year" since 1995. This year, 193,214 people voted. The (2) _____ *kanji* was "peace". Last year, "north" (3) _____, because of North Korea's nuclear tests. The world (4) _____ by natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. There (5) _____ Syria and Yemen. There was suffering because of immigration. People hope next year's *kanji* (6) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster-1.html>

This year is nearly over. For some people, it was a great year; for others, it wasn't. Japanese people have chosen the *kanji* (Chinese character) they thought described 2018. The winning *kanji* means "disaster". This was because of the many natural disasters in Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people died in these disasters. Many roads and houses were destroyed. The Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation has found a "*kanji* of the year" since 1995. This year, 193,214 people voted. The second most popular *kanji* was "peace". Last year, "north" was the winner, because of North Korea's nuclear tests. The world was also hit by natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunamis. There were wars in Syria and Yemen. The world was suffering because of immigration. People hope next year's *kanji* will be "happiness".

DISASTER SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about disaster in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

