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Earthquake kills 3000 across South Asia

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9 October, 2005

THE ARTICLE

Earthquake kills 3000 across South Asia

BNE: A powerful earthquake has killed at least 3,000 people in Pakistan and India. The violent and devastating quake measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. Its force was so strong that it reduced whole villages to rubble. Large areas of Pakistani and Indian Kashmir have suffered very high casualty figures. The full force of the quake rocked areas as far away as New Delhi, Kabul and Dhaka. Officials are warning the death toll will climb dramatically as searches continue over the coming days. Many isolated areas will take some time to report their casualty figures.

Thousands of mud huts and cheap houses collapsed in the quake. Many buildings were not built to high earthquake standards and had little chance of surviving. One apartment block that was totally destroyed was the luxury Margala Towers in Islamabad. Television news pictures show the building is now a mountain of stone and steel. The 75-apartment complex collapsed like a deck of cards. Hundreds of desperate rescuers are currently searching for survivors. They are stripping away the concrete and twisted metal with their bare hands. A local official predicted there would be "massive casualties".

WARM-UPS

1. DISASTERS: This year has seen many natural disasters, almost on a weekly basis. Brainstorm the natural disasters that have happened this year and talk about what you remember of them. Have you or anyone you know suffered in any of these disasters?

2. AFTER: What do you think governments need to do after an earthquake? With your partner(s) talk about several ideas for each of the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Search for survivors | f. Missing children / parents |
| b. International help | g. Pets |
| c. The injured | h. People trapped under rubble |
| d. The homeless | i. Aftershocks |
| e. Food | j. Other |

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Earthquakes / Richter scale / Pakistan / India / rubble / national tragedies / mud huts / apartment buildings / television news pictures / concrete / casualties

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. EARTHQUAKE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "earthquake". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

5. SURVIVOR: Imagine you just experienced a powerful earthquake. In pairs / groups, talk about what you were doing when the quake struck. What did you do after? What did you see? What will you do from now?

6. RESCUE: Rank the following in order of which you would save first if you had to evacuate your house because of an earthquake. Talk about your order with your partner(s).

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| ___ Passport / documents | ___ Grandmother |
| ___ Money | ___ Photo albums |
| ___ Pet | ___ Clothes |
| ___ Computer | ___ Other _____ |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. A huge earthquake has struck India and Pakistan. | T / F |
| b. The quake measured 3.2 on the Richter scale. | T / F |
| c. The quake also rocked Kabul in Afghanistan and Dhaka in Bangladesh. | T / F |
| d. Officials say casualty figures will not rise. | T / F |
| e. All buildings in the area are built to earthquake-proof standards. | T / F |
| f. An upmarket apartment complex is now a mountain of rubble. | T / F |
| g. People in 75 apartments were playing with decks of cards. | T / F |
| h. Rescuers are stripping away twisted metal with their bare hands. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. powerful | power |
| b. at least | out-of-the-way |
| c. force | fell down |
| d. rocked | pile |
| e. isolated | completely |
| f. collapsed | frantic |
| g. totally | strong |
| h. mountain | huge |
| i. desperate | a minimum of |
| j. massive | shook |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. powerful | casualty figures |
| b. The violent and devastating quake | of stone and steel |
| c. it reduced whole | climb dramatically |
| d. suffered very high | measured 7.6 on the Richter scale |
| e. the death toll will | earthquake standards |
| f. mud huts and cheap houses | for survivors |
| g. built to high | earthquake |
| h. the building is now a mountain | cards |
| i. deck of | villages to rubble |
| j. rescuers are currently searching | collapsed in the quake |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Earthquake kills 3000 across South Asia

BNE: A _____ earthquake has killed at least 3,000 people in Pakistan and India. The _____ and devastating quake measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. Its force was so strong that it _____ whole villages to rubble. Large areas of Pakistani and Indian Kashmir have _____ very high casualty figures. The full force of the quake _____ areas as far away as New Delhi, Kabul and Dhaka. Officials are _____ the death toll will climb dramatically as searches continue over the _____ days. Many isolated areas will take some time to report their casualty _____.

Thousands of _____ huts and cheap houses collapsed in the quake. Many buildings were not _____ to high earthquake standards and had little _____ of surviving. One apartment block that was totally destroyed was the _____ Margala Towers in Islamabad. Television news pictures show the building is now a _____ of stone and steel. The 75-apartment complex collapsed like a deck of cards. Hundreds of _____ rescuers are currently searching for survivors. They are _____ away the concrete and twisted metal with their bare hands. A local official _____ there would be "massive casualties".

warning

suffered

violent

figures

powerful

rocked

coming

reduced

luxury

predicted

built

desperate

mountain

mud

stripping

chance

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words '**casualty**' and '**figure**'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the gap fill. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "EARTHQUAKE" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about earthquakes.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| • powerful | • cheap |
| • 7.6 | • standards |
| • casualty | • luxury |
| • rocked | • mountain |
| • toll | • rescuers |
| • isolated | • bare |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What did you think when you first read this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. How much did you already know about the earthquake before you read this article?
- d. Can you imagine what a huge earthquake feels like?
- e. What do you know about the Richter scale?
- f. What is the first thing you should do in an earthquake?
- g. Do earthquakes affect your country?
- h. Do you receive any disaster training in your country?
- i. What do you think you would do if your town was flattened in an earthquake?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. What do you think about what you read?
- b. Do you follow news of tragedies like this?
- c. Do you think there should be a United Nations agency to help areas hit by natural disasters?
- d. What do you know about the causes of earthquakes?
- e. What is the difference between an earthquake, a tremor and an aftershock?
- f. Is your house / apartment strong enough to survive a natural disaster?
- g. What do you think people can do to reduce the death toll in earthquakes?
- h. What message would you give to the people in the South Asia earthquake?
- i. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

EARTHQUAKE PLANS: You are on the committee to create your town's plan to prepare for a major earthquake. In pairs / groups, write down your ideas for how people can prepare for and survive an earthquake in the table below:

AREAS	BEFORE THE QUAKE	AFTER THE QUAKE
Food and water		
Communication		
Shelter		
Family and friends		
Dangerous household items		
Children		
Other		

Change partners and tell each other about your ideas and plans. Give each other feedback to make them better.

Return to your original partner(s) and use the feedback you received to make your plans better.

Present your plans to the class. Who has the best disaster preparedness plan?

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Earthquake kills 3000 across South Asia

BNE: A _____ earthquake has killed at least 3,000 people in Pakistan and India. The violent and devastating quake _____ 7.6 on the Richter scale. Its force was so strong that it _____ whole villages to rubble. Large areas of Pakistani and Indian Kashmir have suffered very high _____ figures. The full force of the quake rocked areas as far away as New Delhi, Kabul and Dhaka. Officials are warning the _____ will climb dramatically as searches continue over the coming days. Many _____ areas will take some time to report their casualty figures.

Thousands of mud huts and cheap houses _____ in the quake. Many buildings were not built to high earthquake standards and had little chance of _____. One apartment block that was totally destroyed was the luxury Margala Towers in Islamabad. Television news pictures show the building is now a _____ of stone and steel. The 75-apartment _____ collapsed like a _____ _____. Hundreds of desperate rescuers are currently searching for survivors. They are _____ away the concrete and twisted metal with their bare hands. A local official predicted there would be "_____ casualties".

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on the South Asia earthquake. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

3. EARTHQUAKE POSTER: Make a poster explaining how and why earthquakes happen. Show your posters to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

4. DIARY / SCHEDULE: Imagine you survived a major earthquake. Write the diary / journal entry for the day after the quake. Read what you wrote to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you all write about similar things?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. T b. F c. T d. F e. F f. T g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

a. powerful	strong
b. at least	a minimum of
c. force	power
d. rocked	shook
e. isolated	out-of-the-way
f. collapsed	fell down
g. totally	completely
h. mountain	pile
i. desperate	frantic
j. massive	huge

PHRASE MATCH:

a. powerful	earthquake
b. The violent and devastating quake	measured 7.6 on the Richter scale
c. it reduced whole	villages to rubble
d. suffered very high	casualty figures
e. the death toll will	climb dramatically
f. mud huts and cheap houses	collapsed in the quake
g. built to high	earthquake standards
h. the building is now a mountain	of stone and steel
i. deck of	cards
j. rescuers are currently searching	for survivors

GAP FILL:

Earthquake kills 3000 across South Asia

BNE: A **powerful** earthquake has killed at least 3,000 people in Pakistan and India. The **violent** and devastating quake measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. Its force was so strong that it **reduced** whole villages to rubble. Large areas of Pakistani and Indian Kashmir have **suffered** very high casualty figures. The full force of the quake **rocked** areas as far away as New Delhi, Kabul and Dhaka. Officials are **warning** the death toll will climb dramatically as searches continue over the **coming** days. Many isolated areas will take some time to report their casualty **figures**.

Thousands of **mud** huts and cheap houses collapsed in the quake. Many buildings were not **built** to high earthquake standards and had little **chance** of surviving. One apartment block that was totally destroyed was the **luxury** Margala Towers in Islamabad. Television news pictures show the building is now a **mountain** of stone and steel. The 75-apartment complex collapsed like a deck of cards. Hundreds of **desperate** rescuers are currently searching for survivors. They are **stripping** away the concrete and twisted metal with their bare hands. A local official **predicted** there would be "massive casualties".