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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/11/13

The Philippines typhoon disaster

Today, we will talk about Typhoon Haiyan that recently caused severe devastation right across the Central Philippines. At the time of writing more than 10,000 people have been killed by the typhoon. The race is on to help survivors. Meanwhile more than a million people in Vietnam have fled their homes ahead of the storms arrival there.

In the Philippines the worst affected area has been in the central province of Leyte where more than 10,000 people are feared dead. The national government and disaster agency have yet to confirm the number of fatalities. The typhoon is the deadliest natural catastrophe on record in the Philippines.

As the super storm tore through the province it destroyed 70-80% of the city of Tacloban. The devastation is so big it is almost unimaginable to picture. Most of the dead are understood to have drowned or were crushed by collapsed buildings. Many corpses hung on tree branches, buildings and were in the roads.

One expat who was at Tacloban airport to catch a military plane to Manila said, "On the way back to the airport we saw many bodies along the street. They were covered with just anything – tarpaulin, roofing sheets, cardboards." When asked how many she said, "Well over a 100 where we passed."

The Philippine government has no resources on its own to deal with a disaster of this magnitude, and the US government and agencies are mounting a huge relief effort.

Haiyan, a category five typhoon that churned through the Philippines archipelago in a straight line from East to West, has weakened considerably on its way to Vietnam.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is the difference between a typhoon, a cyclone and a hurricane? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the typhoon.
- 2) Name the country.
- 3) How many people are feared dead?
- 4) What is an archipelago?
- 5) What is a typhoon?

Student B questions

- 1) What did the expat say?
- 2) Where was the typhoon heading next?
- 3) What region, province and city were badly affected by the typhoon?
- 4) How much of the city was destroyed?
- 5) What category was the typhoon?

Want to know the difference between a typhoon, cyclone or hurricane...?

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2013/11/08/243980516/which-is-it-hurricane-typhoon-or-tropical-cyclone>

Category: Philippines / Typhoon Haiyan / Weather
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **'Typhoon'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – think of three things you might do if a typhoon was coming your way! Add three ways you can help the survivors following a typhoon. Write them below.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

Add three advantages of living in the Philippines. Add three disadvantages. Discuss together.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, write a short weather forecast that involves a typhoon. *5-10 mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to read out their weather forecasts to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How can you help the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan?
- 3) What would you do if a typhoon was on its way towards your region?
- 4) Have you ever experienced a typhoon? Explain.
- 5) What is the biggest storm you have witnessed?
- 6) Have you ever seen a dead body in a storm?
- 7) What other apocalyptic disasters do you know about?
- 8) Where might you stay if a typhoon was on its way towards you?
- 9) What have the TV news said about this news story?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in one of the few hotels that survived the typhoon in Tacloban in the Philippines. You are guests on *CNN*. Today's interview is: *Typhoon Haiyan*. *10 mins.*

- 1) A survivor from Tacloban.
- 2) The Mayor of Tacloban.
- 3) A Red Cross spokesperson.
- 4) A journalist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. One of you is in your country. The other is in Tacloban, the Philippines. (Imagine!) Start a telephone conversation with someone in Tacloban who has survived Typhoon Haiyan. *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

How dangerous are typhoons, cyclones and hurricanes? (Google them!)

Add in some examples!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) How would you describe a typhoon?
- 3) How will the relief agencies cope with this disaster?
- 4) Can you think of another big natural disaster?
- 5) Have you ever experienced a great storm?
- 6) Will you be going to visit the Philippines soon?
- 7) How safe is living in paradise?
- 8) What advice do you have for the people of Leyte?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

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GAP FILL: READING

The Philippines typhoon disaster

Today, we will talk about Typhoon Haiyan that recently caused (1)___ (2)___ right across the Central Philippines. At the time of writing more than 10,000 people have been killed by the (3)___ . The race is on to help survivors. Meanwhile more than a million people in Vietnam have fled their homes ahead of the storms arrival there.

In the Philippines the (4)___ affected area has been in the central province of Leyte where more than 10,000 people are feared dead. The national government and disaster agency have yet to (5)___ the number of fatalities. The typhoon is the deadliest natural (6)___ on record in the Philippines. As the super (7)___ tore through the province it destroyed 70-80% of the city of Tacloban. The devastation is so big it is almost (8)___ to picture.

confirm / typhoon / catastrophe / devastation / unimaginable / severe / worst / storm

Most of the dead are understood to have drowned or were crushed by collapsed buildings. Many (1)___ hung on tree branches, buildings and were in the roads.

One expat who was at Tacloban airport to catch a military plane to Manila said, "On the way back to the airport we saw many bodies along the street. They were covered with just anything - (2)___, roofing sheets, (3)___." When asked how many she said, "Well over a 100 where we passed."

The Philippine government has no (4)___ on its own to deal with a (5)___ of this (6)___, and the US government and agencies are mounting a huge relief effort.

Haiyan, a (7)___ five typhoon that churned through the Philippines (8)___ in a straight line from East to West, has weakened considerably on its way to Vietnam.

tarpaulin / magnitude / archipelago / disaster / cardboards / corpses / category / resources

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The Philippines typhoon disaster

Today, we will talk (1)___ Typhoon Haiyan (2)___ recently caused severe devastation right across the Central Philippines. At the time of writing more (3)___ 10,000 people have been killed by the typhoon. The race is on to help survivors. Meanwhile (4)___ than a million people in Vietnam have fled (5)___ homes ahead of the storms arrival there.

In the Philippines the worst affected area has been in the central province of Leyte (6)___ more than 10,000 people are feared dead. The national government and disaster agency have (7)___ to confirm the number of fatalities. The typhoon is the deadliest natural catastrophe on record in the Philippines. As the super storm tore through the province it destroyed 70-80% of the city of Tacloban. The devastation is so big it is (8)___ unimaginable to picture.

where / than / that / yet / more / almost / their / about

Most (1)___ the dead are understood to have drowned or were crushed by collapsed buildings. Many corpses hung on tree branches, buildings and were in the roads.

One expat (2)___ was at Tacloban airport to catch a military plane to Manila said, "On the way back to the airport we saw many bodies along the street. They were covered with just anything - tarpaulin, roofing sheets, cardboards." When asked (3)___ many (4)___ said, "Well over a 100 where (5)___ passed."

The Philippine government has no resources on (6)___ own to deal with a disaster of this magnitude, and the US government and agencies are mounting a huge relief effort.

Haiyan, a category five typhoon that churned through the Philippines archipelago (7)___ a straight line from East to West, has weakened considerably (8)___ its way to Vietnam.

on / of / we / in / she / how / its / who

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

The Philippines typhoon disaster

Today, we will talk about _____ recently caused severe devastation right across the Central Philippines. At the time of writing more than 10,000 people have been killed by the typhoon. The race is on to help survivors. _____ a million people in Vietnam have fled their homes ahead of the storms arrival there.

_____ the worst affected area has been in the central province of Leyte where more than 10,000 people are feared dead. The national government and disaster agency have yet to confirm the number of fatalities. The typhoon is the deadliest _____ on record in the Philippines.

As the super storm tore through the province it destroyed 70-80% of the city of Tacloban. The devastation is so big it is _____ to picture.

Most of the dead are understood to have drowned or were crushed by _____. Many corpses hung on tree branches, buildings and were in the roads.

_____ Tacloban airport to catch a military plane to Manila said, "On the way back to the airport we saw many bodies along the street. They were covered _____ - tarpaulin, roofing sheets, cardboards." When asked how many she said, "Well over a 100 where we passed."

The Philippine government has no resources on its own to deal with a disaster _____, and the US government and agencies are mounting a huge relief effort. Haiyan, a category five typhoon that churned through the Philippines archipelago in a straight line from East to West, has _____ on its way to Vietnam.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, write down 20 things you know about the Philippines. Talk about them! *5 mins*.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The typhoon _____
- 2) Survivors _____
- 3) Tacloban _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Typhoon Haiyan**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) severe
- 2) devastation
- 3) typhoon
- 4) worst
- 5) confirm
- 6) catastrophe
- 7) storm
- 8) unimaginable

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) typhoon
- 2) devastation
- 3) Philippines
- 4) Survivors
- 5) meanwhile
- 6) Vietnam
- 7) province
- 8) considerably
- 9) confirm
- 10) fatalities

ANSWERS

- 1) corpses
- 2) tarpaulin
- 3) cardboards
- 4) resources
- 5) disaster
- 6) magnitude
- 7) category
- 8) archipelago

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) deadliest
- 12) archipelago
- 13) catastrophe
- 14) through
- 15) unimaginable
- 16) corpses
- 17) military
- 18) tarpaulin
- 19) magnitude
- 20) category

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