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Japan's quake, tsunami and atomic alert

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

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12th March, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

Japan is beginning the cleanup after Friday's deadly earthquake and tsunami. The death toll is currently at 573 with hundreds more people missing. Most of the people died in the massive tsunami, which was up to ten metres high. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency says the number of destroyed buildings has reached 3,400, but that is expected to rise. In the quake-hit areas, around 5.57 million households currently have no electricity, while more than one million homes have had their water supply cut off.

The mega-earthquake is the seventh largest ever recorded. It hit northeast Japan at 2:46 p.m. with a magnitude of 8.9 on the Richter scale. It was felt as far away as Beijing, China. The following tsunami has completely washed away large parts of Japan's north. The damage is in tens of billions of dollars. Fifty-three countries in the Pacific Rim were put on tsunami alert. Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan said his main focus now is to stop a nuclear power plant from overheating. Scientists released radioactive steam from the plant to reduce the pressure inside it.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. beginning the | a. earthquake |
| 2. deadly | b. buildings |
| 3. hundreds more | c. have no electricity |
| 4. destroyed | d. cut off |
| 5. households currently | e. cleanup |
| 6. had their water supply | f. people missing |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. the seventh largest | a. of Japan's north |
| 2. It hit | b. pressure inside it |
| 3. washed away large parts | c. from overheating |
| 4. put on tsunami | d. ever recorded |
| 5. stop a nuclear power plant | e. alert |
| 6. reduce the | f. northeast Japan |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

Japan is _____ after Friday's deadly earthquake and tsunami. The death _____ at 573 with hundreds more people missing. Most of the people died in the massive tsunami, _____ ten metres high. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency says the number of destroyed _____ 3,400, but that is expected to rise. In the quake-hit areas, around 5.57 million households currently have no electricity, _____ one million homes have had their _____ off.

The mega-earthquake is the seventh _____. It hit northeast Japan at 2:46 p.m. with a magnitude of 8.9 on the Richter scale. It was _____ as Beijing, China. The following tsunami has completely _____ parts of Japan's north. The _____ of billions of dollars. Fifty-three countries in the Pacific Rim were put _____. Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan said his main focus now is to stop a nuclear power plant from overheating. Scientists released radioactive steam from the plant to reduce the _____.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

Japan is beginning the cleanup after Friday's (1) _____ earthquake and tsunami. The death (2) _____ is currently at 573 with hundreds more people missing. Most of the people died in the (3) _____ tsunami, which was up to ten metres high. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency says the number of destroyed buildings has (4) _____ 3,400, but that is expected to rise. In the quake-hit areas, around 5.57 million households (5) _____ have no electricity, while more than one million homes have had their water supply cut (6) _____.

The mega-earthquake is the seventh largest (7) _____ recorded. It hit northeast Japan at 2:46 p.m. with a magnitude (8) _____ 8.9 on the Richter scale. It was felt as far away as Beijing, China. The following tsunami has completely (9) _____ away large parts of Japan's north. The damage is (10) _____ tens of billions of dollars. Fifty-three countries in the Pacific Rim were put on tsunami alert. Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan said his (11) _____ focus now is to stop a nuclear power plant from overheating. Scientists released (12) _____ steam from the plant to reduce the pressure inside it.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) death | (b) dead | (c) deadly |
| 2. | (a) toll | (b) doll | (c) roll |
| 3. | (a) largish | (b) massive | (c) tiny |
| 4. | (a) reaches | (b) reached | (c) reaching |
| 5. | (a) current | (b) currant | (c) currently |
| 6. | (a) off | (b) on | (c) in |
| 7. | (a) ever | (b) never | (c) even |
| 8. | (a) by | (b) at | (c) of |
| 9. | (a) washing | (b) washed | (c) washes |
| 10. | (a) on | (b) to | (c) in |
| 11. | (a) main | (b) mainly | (c) mains |
| 12. | (a) radio | (b) radioactive | (c) radiate |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. beginning the nacuepl
2. hundreds more people mgnssii
3. the ismeasv tsunami
4. that is cpteexed to rise
5. 5.57 million hhselduoo
6. water plpusy cut off

Paragraph 2

7. the seventh largest ever eddrecro
8. 8.9 on the Richter esacl
9. completely hswead away
10. put on tsunami ratle
11. his main uocfs
12. reduce the eussrper

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () The mega-earthquake is the seventh largest ever recorded. It hit northeast Japan
- (**1**) Japan is beginning the cleanup after Friday's deadly earthquake and tsunami. The death
- () toll is currently at 573 with hundreds more people missing. Most of the people died in the massive
- () tsunami, which was up to ten metres high. Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency says the number of
- () said his main focus now is to stop a nuclear power plant from overheating. Scientists
- () at 2:46 p.m. with a magnitude of 8.9 on the Richter scale. It was felt as far away as Beijing, China. The following tsunami
- () than one million homes have had their water supply cut off.
- () of dollars. Fifty-three countries in the Pacific Rim were put on tsunami alert. Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan
- () areas, around 5.57 million households currently have no electricity, while more
- () destroyed buildings has reached 3,400, but that is expected to rise. In the quake-hit
- () has completely washed away large parts of Japan's north. The damage is in tens of billions
- () released radioactive steam from the plant to reduce the pressure inside it.

WORD JUMBLE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1103/110312-japan_earthquake.html

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. cleanup the Beginning earthquake deadly Friday's after.

2. toll death The 573 at currently is.

3. died massive Most people the the in tsunami of.

4. destroyed buildings has reached 3,400 The number of.

5. off their water Homes supply have cut had.

6. recorded ever largest seventh The.

7. of 8.9 on the Richter scale A magnitude.

8. far It away was as felt Beijing as.

9. billions is of dollars damage tens of The in.

10. released Scientists plant the from steam radioactive.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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. EARTHQUAKES: Search the Internet and find more information about earthquakes. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the Japan earthquake. Include imaginary interviews with people who were there. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to an earthquake expert. Ask him/her three questions about earthquakes. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.