

## B2 First Part 5

1 In multiple-choice reading activities, you **shouldn't** ...

- a read the text quickly before you've looked at the questions and answer options.
- b assume the answers will come in the same order as the information in the text.
- c pick an option just because it contains one or more words that are also in the text.

2 Think of **one** word to complete each sentence.

- 1 When an ..... occurs, the ground moves under your feet.
- 2 A ..... is a heavy snowstorm.
- 3 If you ..... for something, you say sorry.
- 4 A ..... worker helps people affected by events like droughts and floods.
- 5 If you ..... to a sports or book club, you are a member.
- 6 ..... rain is when there is very heavy rainfall.

## ✓ Exam tip

In multiple-choice reading activities, you need to check that the meaning of an option matches the text. The correct option will probably express the information in the text using different words.

## 3 You are going to read a text about a personal experience of natural disasters. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

### ***My natural disaster experience ... is not what you think!***

We've all seen reporting of natural disasters in the media. The debris, the destruction, the chaos. The interviews with evacuees and relief workers. It's all over the papers and on the news. Sometimes it's as if journalists are almost pleased to have some news that will take up a few days or weeks without them having to search around for other things to report on.

It's easy to understand why these human-interest stories attract a lot of attention. Natural disasters take place all over the world, often with little or no warning. They remind us how relatively powerless we are as humans in the face of the power of nature. The latest news item about this earthquake or that flash flood leaves you feeling almost relieved that it isn't happening in your backyard.

You might be surprised to learn that my own experience on holiday with my family in New York was, well, a lot less dramatic than the media would have had you think. Our trip had started badly when we were about to arrive at JFK Airport and had to be redirected to Boston because of a sudden thunderstorm. This, in effect, doubled our journey time ... as well as our stress levels! We were travelling with one-year-old twins who had already had enough of being on the plane before the news of the storm. The following two weeks in New York were rather relaxing in comparison, not that you'd have known it if you'd watched the news.

Then, on the third day of our stay, it was reported that a hurricane was heading in our direction. As it neared, TV crews could be seen on every corner of the city and people started to become more panicked. However, to anyone like us with three children under age three, there were enough daily distractions without worrying about the weather. We got on with more immediate pressures like changing nappies. Other people running around weren't our concern. And, as it turned out, for good reason: the hurricane lost speed as it approached and ended up coming and going without any impact, leaving reporters trying to find the most affected area to report on. This was little more than a deep puddle!

In the same two weeks, we also experienced an earthquake. I'm well aware, having lived in Japan, that earthquakes and the aftershocks that follow, can be frightening. Not in this case. I was running from our apartment back to the swimming pool as we had forgotten one of the twin's swimming costumes. That was when the ground started to shake beneath my feet. Only it didn't really! Maybe it was due to my movement along the pavement, but I literally felt nothing. My partner said they had felt it a little but, again, we kind of just continued with our day. The media were keen to report it again, despite it being very much a 'non-event'.

If we hadn't had three small children to think about and if we'd been following the news more closely, or if we were more anxious characters, the way both of these events were reported could have sent us into panic. Both stories had reached our families in the UK. Being miles away from us, they were obviously concerned by what they were being told on the TV and in the papers. Luckily, there was a quick fix: a few phone calls home put everyone at ease.

The media relies on selling stories; that's their job. The point is, while I understand the media rightly reports on such events, sometimes the build-up is greater than the incident itself, causing the reader or watcher needless drama and worry. Maybe it's time that the selection of stories went back to informative pieces about key issues, rather than focusing on minor events simply to provoke an emotional response in the audience.



## B2 First Part 5 (continued)

- 1 What is the writer's purpose in the first paragraph?
  - A To explain the importance of the media in covering news.
  - B To highlight that natural disasters are easy for the media to report on.
  - C To communicate how dangerous natural disasters can be.
  - D To inform people about the work of journalists.
- 2 What is the meaning of 'your backyard' in paragraph 2?
  - A The world as a whole.
  - B The natural environment.
  - C The area in which you live.
  - D The garden behind your house.
- 3 What did the writer think about the thunderstorm in paragraph 3?
  - A She was too busy taking care of her children to worry about it.
  - B She wasn't bothered because she was just happy to be on holiday.
  - C She started to get stressed because it had been a relaxing flight.
  - D She was annoyed because she was bored of the flight.
- 4 How did people in New York react to the news of the hurricane?
  - A They were unconcerned.
  - B They were anxious.
  - C They were irritated.
  - D They were cheerful.
- 5 What is the writer's point in paragraph 6?
  - A We can call friends and family after news breaks.
  - B People who panic follow news stories more closely.
  - C How the media reports events can affect people.
  - D Busy parents are less likely to follow the news.
- 6 What is the writer's main message in the last paragraph?
  - A A combination of emotion and information leads to a good story.
  - B People naturally worry about things, so news stories tend to reflect this.
  - C There is no need to report on natural disasters around the world.
  - D Media companies should avoid making a news item bigger than it really is.

## B2 First Part 2

1 In activities where you think of words to complete a text, what type of words are often missing?

- a grammatical words
- b informal vocabulary
- c contractions

2 Match the words (1–8) to the definitions (a–h).

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 epidemic .....     | a when flames, rocks and lava come out of a volcano      |
| 2 protect from ..... | b hot liquid from a volcano                              |
| 3 devastating .....  | c large waves usually caused by an earthquake            |
| 4 molten lava .....  | d widespread infectious disease                          |
| 5 rely on .....      | e someone who is injured or killed in an accident or war |
| 6 eruption .....     | f keep (someone) safe                                    |
| 7 tsunami .....      | g depend on  |
| 8 casualty .....     | h highly damaging  |

✓ Exam tip

In an open cloze, often the missing words are grammatical words like articles (*a, the*), auxiliary verbs (*do, have, be*), linking words (*however, despite*), pronouns (*their, me*) and prepositions (*in, across*). If you use a verb, make sure it agrees with the subject.

3 For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

### *Iceland – land of ice and fire*



Iceland has long (0) *been* regarded as a place of stunning beauty and natural wonders. The island is thought to (1) ..... risen from the Atlantic approximately 18 million years ago and was formed (2) ..... massive volcanic activity. 130 volcanoes spread (3) ..... the land with the country experiencing an eruption once every five years on average. (4) ..... there are so many, only 30 are active today.

(5) ..... would make people want to live in a place where you are under constant threat (6) ..... molten lava and ash? With its long history, the inhabitants (7) ..... usually warned in advance of any potential eruption and protected from it. And besides, most of Iceland's big cities are a safe distance away. In truth, it's not all bad. (8) ..... to the geothermal nature of the land, most of the country don't have to pay for electricity to heat water!