



Topic: Emergency

Level: Advanced

Grammar Focus: Nouns



Discussion:

A. Look at the picture. What do you see? Use these words to build a description:

telephone ambulance flashing light hospital road accident illness

B. Read and discuss the following questions.

1. What sort of emergency is suggested by the picture?

2. If the scene had sound, what sounds would you hear?



3. The receiver is off the phone. What does this suggest?

4. There are no people in the picture but there are people involved in the action suggested by the images. Who are in the vehicle? Who are in the building?

C. General chat about emergencies.

What makes an emergency situation? What emergencies can occur in a house? In a factory? In a community? On a mountain? At sea? Can we prepare for them?

D. Word Play. The following tasks involve nouns or naming words.

1. Which item would you not expect to find in an emergency kit?

bandage, battery torch, water, canned food, movie ticket, blanket

Are there any other items you would add?

2. Which word is the odd one out? Why?

avalanche, tornado, car crash, earthquake, tsunami, flood



Story:

A. Read the following story. Take your time, pronounce words carefully and follow the punctuation.

Bush Fire

It was late summer. There had been no rain for several months. The pasture had turned brown and the bush was very dry. The local farmers knew that the fire danger was high and took all precautions to prevent any sparks igniting the vegetation. They kept watch while looking after their animals. The men in the volunteer fire brigade patrolled the hills. The people from the town just complained about the heat and wished that the cooler season would hurry up and arrive.

When the first plumes of smoke appeared they were blamed on a lightning strike or a careless camper. There were heavy clouds overhead and with the change in the sky came a strong northerly wind. The gusts fanned the flames and soon the fire was racing through the bush. The firemen worked hard to contain the fire by back burning and using their high pressure hoses. As one fire was brought under control another broke out.

The fire raged across the hills and there was smoke and ash in the air over the town. It was an alarming situation. Then, with perfect timing, nature intervened. It started to rain. The people had been so busy watching the advancing fire they had missed the signals from the weather. The clouds had been thickening and growing blacker and the wind had dropped. The first large, wet spots soon became a steadier flow. Within minutes the rain was pelting down. There was relief for everyone. The fire would be put out. The town would be safe. The drought was over.



B. Testing your general understanding.

The following statements are either true or false. Read each one and decide whether it is 'true' or 'false'.

1. Flames were the first sign of the fire.
2. The wind slowed the fire down.
3. The weather, not the firemen, put out the fire.
4. The town was threatened by the fire.
5. Drought means heavy rain.

C. Ultimate challenge. Read each question and the four possible answers. Which one do you think is correct?

Q.1 Why was the danger of fire high?

- a. There was a lot of bush on the hills.
- b. There had been no rain for months.
- c. There were careless people camping in the area.
- d. The firemen were out on patrol.

Q.2 Which season is 'the cooler season'?

- a. spring.
- b. summer.
- c. autumn.
- d. winter.



Q.3 Why was the start of the rain 'perfect timing'?

- a. The smoke and ash made it hard to breathe.
- b. The firemen were tired.
- c. The fire was moving closer to the town.
- d. The water for the hoses would soon run out.

Q.4 What does the word 'intervened' mean?

- a. Began to rain.
- b. Acted at the right time.
- c. Surprised.
- d. Interfered.

Q.5 Which word means 'getting closer'?

- a. Advancing.
- b. Racing.
- c. Igniting.
- d. Pelting.

Exploring other ideas:

- What action would you take in an emergency?
- What are natural disasters? How can we prepare for them?
- Current news item on a natural disaster or emergency.
- Global warming as a threat to our world.