

## Aid struggling to reach needy in Nepal

4th May, 2015



A week after the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal and the full extent of the disaster is still coming to light. The United Nations has called for further support

to aid the rescue attempts. Only \$53 million of the \$415 million promised by countries has been given. The capital Kathmandu is struggling to deal with the sheer enormity of the destruction, while whole towns along the length of the Kathmandu Valley have been flattened. Hundreds of thousands of homes across the impoverished Himalayan nation have been damaged or destroyed, leaving more than 3 million people sheltering under blue tarpaulins and in need of food and medicine.

Nepal's Prime Minister, Sushil Koirala, has admitted that his government is overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster and is ill-equipped to cope. He requested helicopters to help with the distribution of aid. However, the logistics of this are being hampered by the country's rugged terrain, which often makes it difficult for anything to be delivered by air. Many of the roads have been swept away by avalanches and landslides. Further exacerbating the problem is the fact that Kathmandu's international airport has only one runway, which has hindered the delivery of much-needed supplies. The U.N. World Food Program warned that it would take time for aid to reach more remote communities.

Sources: *SGGate.com / kttc.com / reuters.com*

## Writing

Everyone should be fully prepared for natural disasters. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*devastating / earthquake / disaster / aid / rescue / capital / impoverished / sheltering / overwhelmed / ill-equipped / logistics / rugged terrain / avalanches / runway / remote*

## True / False

- The Nepal quake struck at a magnitude of 8.7 on the Richter Scale. T / F
- Nepal is still waiting for most of the money it has been promised in aid. T / F
- Authorities in Kathmandu is now on top of the situation in the capital. T / F
- Over three million people are living under blue tarpaulin sheets. T / F
- Nepal's government admitted it could not cope with the disaster. T / F
- The country's rugged terrain is making it difficult to deliver aid. T / F
- The article says Kathmandu's airport only has two runways. T / F
- The U.N. is confident aid can reach remote communities very soon. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. struck          | a. confessed    |
| 2. extent          | b. size         |
| 3. coming to light | c. making worse |
| 4. enormity        | d. requiring    |
| 5. in need of      | e. scope        |
| 6. admitted        | f. land         |
| 7. cope            | g. hit          |
| 8. terrain         | h. isolated     |
| 9. exacerbating    | i. emerging     |
| 10. remote         | j. manage       |

## Discussion – Student A

- Why do earthquakes happen?
- What do you know about the magnitude of earthquakes?
- Is the money promised by the world enough?
- What can the world do to help Nepal?
- What can you do to help Nepal?
- What is the enormity of the damage in Nepal?
- How do people rebuild their lives?
- What now for those affected by the earthquake?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |     |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. A week after the devastating | 7.8 | a. of the destruction   |
| 2. the full extent              |     | b. blue tarpaulins      |
| 3. still coming                 |     | c. of food              |
| 4. rescue                       |     | d. Himalayan nation     |
| 5. The capital Kathmandu is     |     | e. magnitude earthquake |
| 6. deal with the sheer enormity |     | f. struggling           |
| 7. along the length of          |     | g. of the disaster      |
| 8. across the impoverished      |     | h. attempts             |
| 9. sheltering under             |     | i. the Kathmandu Valley |
| 10. in need                     |     | j. to light             |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the response of Nepal's leader?
- Should Nepal have been better prepared?
- What are the logistics involved in distributing aid in Nepal?
- Is the United Nations prepared enough for such catastrophes?
- What message would you give to the people of Nepal?
- How would your town cope with a natural disaster?
- How would you cope with a natural disaster?
- What questions would you like to ask Nepal's leader?

## Spelling

- the gvntaaits 7.8 magnitude earthquake
- he full nxtet of the disaster
- aid the recuse attempts
- struggling to deal with the sheer mynoerit
- across the edhirsvoemip Himalayan nation
- sheltering under blue psiltranau
- his government is eedewrhmovl
- the silsocgtj of this
- the country's rugged artrnie
- Further gbcireenxata the problem
- hindered the dyrvieel
- reach more emeort communities

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. d
6. a	7. j	8. f	9. c	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Telephone

You think a telephone is the best thing to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a tarpaulin, matches or blankets.

### Role B – Tarpaulin

You think a tarpaulin is the best thing to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a telephone, matches or blankets.

### Role C – Matches

You think matches are the best things to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a tarpaulin, a telephone or blankets.

### Role D – Blankets

You think blankets are the best things to have in a natural disaster. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): a tarpaulin, matches or a telephone.

## Speaking – Disaster

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to have in a natural disaster at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| • telephone | • torch / flashlight |
| • tarpaulin | • radio              |
| • medicine  | • knife              |
| • matches   | • blankets           |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.