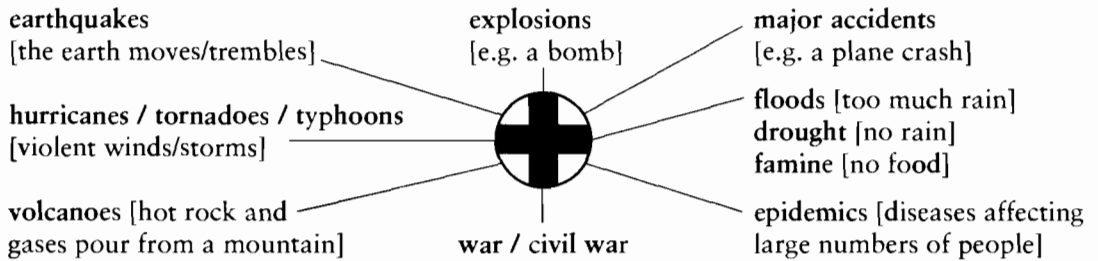


38 Global problems

Disasters/tragedies



Verbs connected with these words

A volcano has **erupted** in Indonesia. Hundreds are feared dead.
 The flu epidemic spread rapidly throughout the country.
 Millions are **starving** as a result of the famine.
 A big earthquake **shook** the city at noon today.
 The area is **suffering** its worst drought for many years.
 Civil war has **broken out** in the north of the country.
 A tornado **swept** through the islands yesterday.
Remember: injure [people], damage [things]:
 200 people were **injured** and dozens of buildings were **damaged** in the hurricane.

Words for people involved in disasters/tragedies

The explosion resulted in 300 casualties. [dead and injured people]
 The real victims of the civil war are the children left without parents. [those who suffer the results of the disaster]
 There were only three survivors. All the other passengers died instantly. [people who live through a disaster]
 Thousands of refugees have crossed the border looking for food and shelter.
 During the battle, the dead and wounded were flown out in helicopters. [wounded: injured in a battle/by a weapon]

Headlines

Here are some headlines from newspapers all connected with diseases and epidemics. Explanations are given.

disease can be caused by bite from a dog, fox, etc.; very serious → **Rabies out of control in many parts of Asia**

tropical disease; skin goes yellow → **yellow fever figures drop**

usually caught because of mosquito bites → **New malaria drug tested**

terrible skin disease; leaves the skin deformed → **Minister says fight against leprosy goes on**

diseases causing sickness, diarrhoea etc.; caused often by infected food and water → **Cholera and typhoid injections not needed says Tourism Minister**

Exercises

38.1 What type of disaster from the list at A opposite are these sentences about? Why?

Example: The lava flow destroyed three villages. *volcano; lava is the hot rocks and metal*

- 1 The earth is cracked and vegetation has withered.
- 2 The tremor struck at 3.35 p.m. local time.
- 3 People had boarded up shops and houses during the day before, and stayed indoors.
- 4 Shelling and mortar fire could be heard all over the town.
- 5 Witnesses said they saw a fire-ball fall out of the sky.
- 6 People were stranded in the upper floors and sometimes on the roofs of their homes, unable to move about.

38.2 Complete the missing items in this word-class table, using a dictionary if necessary. Where there is a dash (-), you do not need to write anything.

<i>verb</i>	<i>noun: thing or idea</i>	<i>noun: person</i>
.....	explosion	-
.....	survivor
injure
starve
erupt	-

38.3 In these headlines, say whether the situation seems to be getting *worse* or *better*, or whether a disaster has *happened* or has been *avoided/prevented*.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1 Poison gas cloud spreads</p> | <p>3 POLICE DEFUSE TERRORIST BOMB</p> | <p>5 Oil slick recedes</p> |
| <p>2 AIDS time-bomb ticking away</p> | <p>4 All survive jumbo crash-landing</p> | <p>6 Flood warnings not heeded in time</p> |

38.4 Fill the gaps with a suitable word from B opposite. Try to work from memory.

- 1 Another 50 people died today, yet more of this terrible famine.
- 2 The government has agreed to allow 3,000 trying to escape the civil war to enter the country.
- 3 It was the worst road accident the country has ever seen, with over 120
- 4 A: Were there any when the ship sank? B: I'm afraid not.
- 5 The and were simply left lying on the battlefield; it was a disgrace.

38.5 Which diseases are we talking about? Try to do this from memory.

- 1 One that can be caused by a mosquito bite.
- 2 One that leaves the skin badly deformed.
- 3 One you can get by drinking infected water.
- 4 One you can get from an animal bite.
- 5 One that makes the skin go yellow.