

Grammar

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

1. Mixed conditionals

We wouldn't be in this situation if we had taken action before.

2. Alternatives to IF

Provided/providing that, whether (or not), even if, supposing.

Provided governments took action, there would still be many things for citizens to do as individuals.

Supposing there was something we could do about it, would people dare?

Inversion (emphasis)

Auxiliary + subject + verb + complements, subject + verb + complements.

Had we paid attention to what experts were saying, global warming wouldn't be such a serious threat nowadays.

Phrasal verbs

To blow away (when the wind moves sth from a place)
Even the roofs were blown away!

To fall down (to fall to the ground)
Many trees fell down just in a few minutes

To blow over/ ease off (to become less strong and then end)
Fortunately, what seemed to be going to turn into a tornado blew over in a few hours, against all odds.

To tear off (to remove with force)
The fences were torn off.

To flood out (to leave a home or a place because of a flood)
All the neighbours were flooded out.

To pour down (to rain heavily)
All of a sudden it started pouring down and the streets were flooded.

Idioms

In floods of tears (Crying a lot)

I found her in floods of tears.

A cloud on the horizon

(An omen that something bad or problematic will happen in the near future)

After the flood, the only cloud on the horizon is that the compensations might take months to get to our accounts.

Perfect storm (A bad situation in which many bad things happen at the same time)

To weather the storm (To successfully deal with a very difficult problem)

No matter how hard a situation may get, human beings are programmed to weather the storm come what may.

Functional language

Agreeing

I couldn't say it better myself.

Disagreeing

Rather than that I might suggest....

Disagreeing strongly

Never in my life have I heard such a thing!

Giving opinions

You should ..., no doubt about it.

Vocab

Verbs and verb phrases

be awarded a medal for bravery
survive a natural disaster
to rescue
to be rescued
to alert
to be on the alert for...
to form or organize a search party
to collect and distribute supplies
to report missing people

Nouns and noun phrases

a burning house/a house on fire
rescue mission/party/helicopter
air-sea rescue
airlift (to move supplies or people by aircraft to or from a place in a difficult situation)
search party
coastguard
emergency services
accident
lockdown
frost bite
trained dogs
survivor
survival (to have a 50/50 chance of survival)
survival kit
missing people
victims
casualties (wounded or killed people)
fatalities (killed people)

Natural disasters:

hurricane/ tornado/ tsunami
earthquake/ flood/ drought/ volcano eruption
electrical/ dust storm
cold/ heat wave
blizzard

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- Do you know how to act in case of emergency? Do you think people are provided with enough information about this?
- Some people think that first aid training should be taught at school. Do you agree?
- Is it important that governments take preventive measures against natural disasters even when they do not happen very often?
- Do you think governments provide aid to victims in all situations? Is it enough?
- Do you know anyone who has ever had to be rescued? Can you tell us about the circumstances that led to that situation?
- What problems do you think flood/fire survivors have to face after leaving their homes? How long do they have to wait until they can move back?

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- Do you think global warming is causing a greater incidence of meteorological disasters?

WRITE HERE YOUR OWN QUESTIONS

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