



Unit 17 Hurricane

Before you read

Think about these questions. What is the most dangerous kind of weather you have experienced? What happened?

Read the weather report

International Weather Report

¹ Hurricane *Babette* reached the island of Bermuda today. The strong winds and heavy rain made big waves, and the waves washed through the towns. Nobody knows exactly how many people died in the hurricane, but the number is probably very high. The storm also damaged many homes and businesses here. It will cost a lot of money to rebuild them.

² In the Northeastern United States, people are living through one of the worst winters in years. Last month, there were big snowstorms all over the area. Schools, shopping centers, and gas stations closed for days. But some businesses made money from the cold weather. For example, True Value hardware stores sold 500,000 shovels. People also bought 40 million kilos of rock salt to melt ice. And of course, sales of winter clothes were very high.

³ The temperature is 36 degrees centigrade in Brazil today. Thousands of people are escaping to the beach. Some people are even bringing their computers and cell phones with them. Now they can work in the sun! The authorities are telling people to drink lots of water. They are asking old people to stay inside.

⁴ Thailand is suffering from the worst flood of the century. But there are many heartwarming stories of people helping other people. From all over the world, people are sending food and clothing for the Thais who lost their homes. Many volunteers are coming to help build walls. The walls protect villages from the rising water. People are coming together to help others and save lives, possessions, and property . . . it's wonderful!

Source: Adapted from *For Your Information 1* by Karen Blanchard and Christine Root, Longman

Build your skills: Identifying main ideas

Read the article again. Match each paragraph with its main idea. Write the number of the paragraph next to the main idea.

- 4 A flood caused damage, but people from all over the world are helping.
- The summer has been very hot, and the heat can be dangerous.
- A killer storm hit the coast and it will be expensive to rebuild.
- Bad snowstorms have caused some businesses to lose money and some to make money.



Check your comprehension

Match the beginnings of the sentences with the endings.

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| 1. A hurricane hit <u> e </u> | a. a very cold winter. |
| 2. The northeastern United States is having _____ | b. very hot. |
| 3. In snowy weather, people buy _____ | c. walls to protect villages. |
| 4. In Brazil, the weather is _____ | d. lots of shovels and rock salt. |
| 5. In hot weather, old people should _____ | e. the island of Bermuda. |
| 6. In a flood, people can help by building _____ | f. stay inside in the air conditioning. |