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# Our precious world

- **Topics** Climate change; What's ecology?; Green energy and Masdar City; Water is gold; Eco-friendly houses; Why recycle?
- **Use of English** *wish* and past perfect; defining relative pronouns; first conditionals; modals in the past; second conditionals; present passive voice.



## Lessons 1–2 Extreme weather

- What is the most extreme weather you have ever experienced?
- What did you do?
- How did it make you feel?

### Vocabulary

- 1 The following words are all connected to extreme weather. Match each word below to the definitions.

storm tsunami hurricane heat wave  
global warming drought rainfall  
thunder fog cloud

- 1 no rain for a long period.
- 2 the amount of rain.
- 3 a very loud noise from the sky.
- 4 when very small drops of water come together making it difficult to see.
- 5 several days when the weather is much hotter than normal.
- 6 very strong wind and heavy rain.
- 7 a very large wave caused by an earthquake under the sea.
- 8 very, very strong wind.
- 9 an increase in the earth's temperature due to the release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere.
- 10 a grey or white shape in the sky made from very small drops of water.

### Listening

- 2 You are going to listen to three speakers talking about extreme weather. Listen and decide what extreme weather condition each speaker is describing and where it takes place.

#### Situation 1

Weather condition: **heatwave,**  
Place: **Europe**

#### Situation 2

Weather condition: **tsunami,**  
Place: **Japan**

#### Situation 3

Weather condition: **fog**  
Place: **Dubai**

- 1 drought;  
2 rainfall;  
3 thunder;  
4 fog;  
5 heat wave;  
6 storm;  
7 tsunami;  
8 hurricane;  
9 global warming;  
10 cloud

3 Listen again to each speaker and write notes on what they say in your notebook. Answer these two questions in your notebook.

- 1 What happened?
- 2 How does the speaker feel?

## Use of English

4 Look at this sentence from the listening activity.

*I wish we had listened to the scientists.*

Decide if the following questions are true or false:

- a The speaker is talking about the past. ✓
- b The speaker thinks we listened to the scientists. ✗
- c The speaker wants to change the situation. ✓

## Speaking

5 Look at the following situations. What do you think the speakers wishes are? Write notes, then tell you partner. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 I left my keys at home.  
*I wish I had remembered my keys.*
- 2 I had to buy my mum a new vase.  
*I wish/if only I hadn't broken the vase*
- 3 I missed the football match.  
*I wish/if only I had woken up earlier*
- 4 I left my books at school.  
*I wish/if only I hadn't left my books at school*
- 5 I spilt your tea.  
*I wish/if only I had been more careful.*

## Pronunciation

6 Look at the wishes you wrote for the activity above. Try saying them with falling intonation.

*I wish I had remembered my keys.*

### Listening strategy

When you are taking notes, it is a good idea to have a clear purpose for listening, that is, why are you listening to the speakers? As you listen, focus on your purpose and do not write down everything you hear.

### Language tip

*wish* + past perfect is used to express a past situation we would like to change but can't. We can also use 'if only' instead of 'wish'.

Example: *If only we had listened to scientists. (I wish we had listened to the scientists).*

*If only we hadn't cut down so many trees. (I wish we hadn't cut down so many trees.)*

### Speaking tip

Use falling intonation to say something definite or when you want to be very clear about something. Your voice should go down on the final stressed syllable of a phrase or group of words.

