**Conversational Topic**

**Global Environmental Disasters**

An ***environmental disaster*** is a ***disaster*** to the natural environment due to human activity.

The disasters range from wars to nuclear explosions, ***chemical spill***, ***toxic gas leaks***, and ***oil spills***. Whenever these disasters occur, the environmental ***consequences*** are very high and their impacts are felt for hundreds of years.

Here are some of the worst environmental disasters in history.

*The London’s Killer Fog*

In 1952, the winter weather was so cold and residents burnt more ***coal*** than they usually do to relieve the cold. As a result, the smoke together with nitrogen oxides, ***soot***, and ***sulfur dioxide*** reached high levels and covered the entire London in black cloud of almost complete darkness, a phenomenon that killed over 12,000 people.

*The Nuclear Power Plant Explosion in Chernobyl, Ukraine*

In April 26, 1986, a ***reactor shutdown*** was experienced at the Chernobyl Nuclear Station. A ***run-away nuclear reaction*** resulted in a horrific fire and explosion, claiming the lives of 50 personnel instantly and ***ejected much radiation***. More than 4000 cancer deaths have been linked with the extensive spread of ***radioactive substances***. Belarus was heavily affected and ***radioactive contamination*** was detected as far as the British Isles.

*British Petroleum Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico*

In April 20, 2010, there was an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico. It caused the most prominent ***accidental marine oil spill*** in the petroleum industry history. Eleven employees died as a result of the explosion. The explosion released about 60 million barrels of ***mixed-grade*** oil from the ***disconnected*** ***well***, which went on for more than four months. Over 34,000 birds, hundreds of sea ***turtles***, about 72 dolphins and other marine ***vertebrates*** and ***invertebrates*** were poisoned, ***suffocated*** and died in the floating oil.

*Southern Leyte Rock-slide/Avalanche, Philippines*

In February 2006, an enormous ***avalanche*** of rock, soil and ***debris*** poured into a populated ***valley*** of Southern Leyte Province in the Philippines after a week’s long heavy rain and ***minor earthquake***. The instant ***outcome*** was the burying of the mountain village of Guinsaugon in the town of Saint Bernard. The incidence killed thousands of people including 250 children who were attending elementary school at the time. More than 1500 people are still missing to this day. The disaster is said to be an ***outcome*** of nonstop ***logging*** and unregulated ***mining*** around and within the mountainside forest surrounding the valley.

**Vocabulary (в порядке встречаемости в тексте)**

***environmental*** ***disaster*** экологическая катастрофа, экологическое бедствие

***disaster*** бедствие, катастрофа

***nuclear*** ***explosion*** ядерный взрыв

***chemical spill*** выброс/утечка химикатов

***toxic gas leak*** утечка ядовитого газа

***oil spill*** разлив нефти, утечка нефти

***environmental*** ***consequences*** экологические последствия

***coal*** уголь

***soot*** сажа

***sulfur dioxide*** диоксид серы, сернистый газ

***reactor*** ***shutdown*** остановка реактора

***run-away nuclear reaction*** быстропротекающая ядерная реакция

***eject radiation*** излучать радиацию

***radioactive*** ***substances*** радиоактивные вещества

***radioactive*** ***contamination*** радиоактивное заражение

***accidental*** аварийный, стихийный, случайный

***marine oil spill*** разлив нефти, утечка нефти в море

***mixed-grade*** смешанный

***disconnected*** отсоединившийся

***well*** резервуар, скважина

***turtle*** черепаха

***vertebrates*** позвоночные

***invertebrates*** беспозвоночные

***suffocate*** задыхаться

***avalanche*** лавина, обвал

***debris*** обломки породы, обломочные материалы

***valley*** долина

***minor*** ***earthquake*** слабое землетрясение

***outcome*** результат, последствие

***logging*** вырубка (леса)

***mining*** добыча полезных ископаемых

**Exercises**

**Ex. 1 Make sure that you know the following words.**

Logging, mining, avalanche, vertebrates, invertebrates, well, radioactive substances, radioactive contamination, oil spill, coal, toxic gas leak, disaster.

**Ex. 2 Translate into English.**

Излучать радиацию, быстропротекающая ядерная реакция, радиоактивные вещества, радиоактивное заражение, разлив нефти, черепаха, позвоночные, беспозвоночные, лавина, обломки породы, долина, слабое землетрясение, добыча полезных ископаемых, ядерный взрыв, утечка химикатов, утечка ядовитого газа, уголь, экологическая катастрофа.

**Ex. 3 Say if the statements are true or false.**

1. Environmental disasters are resulting from natural forces.

2. The London’s Killer Fog killed twelve people.

3. The Chernobyl Nuclear Station is notorious for its explosion in 1986.

4. The most prominent accidental marine oil spill in the petroleum industry history was an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.

5. Southern Leyte Rock-slide was an avalanche that hit Japan.

**Ex. 4 Finish the sentences.**

1. An environmental disaster is a disaster to …

2. The disasters range from wars to …

3. In April 26, 1986, a reactor shutdown was experienced at …

4. An explosion in the Gulf of Mexico was in …

5. Southern Leyte Rock-slide is said to be an outcome of …

**Ex. 5 Answer the following questions.**

1. What events are referred to as environmental disasters?

2. What are the top-three environmental disasters in the world’s history?

3. What happened during the London’s Killer Fog?

4. What were the consequences of the Nuclear Power Plant Explosion in Chernobyl?

5. What were the consequences of the British Petroleum Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico?