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## **The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/05/13**

### **Oklahoma - After the tornado**

Today, let's talk about the devastating tornado that recently hit Oklahoma in the USA. The town of Moore near Oklahoma City took a direct hit. Entire streets were reduced to rubble as the powerful storm hit - destroying everything in its path.

Stories have emerged of the bravery of those who tried to protect others from the tornado, including the teachers who protected their students from the storm as two schools took a direct hit. At the Plaza Towers Elementary School seven children were killed when the roof was ripped off and its walls were knocked down by the tornado as it passed through. At Briarwood Elementary school everyone amazingly survived the ordeal.

So far the tornado has cost 24 lives; more than 230 people were injured; 12,000 to 13,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. The twister created winds of at least 200mph (320km/h).

The National Weather Service (NWS) in the USA listed the tornado as an EF-5 – the most powerful type of tornado on the Fujita scale.

Hundreds of volunteers and federal officials assisted in the aftermath of the tornado, helping people find accommodation and delivering supplies including food to residents whose homes had been swept away. Disaster centres were set up to help people assess what they had lost and what their immediate needs were.

The question is – can the once thriving community of 56,000 in Moore rebuild their lives or will many simply decide to move away from Tornado Alley and rebuild their shattered lives elsewhere?

### **SPEAKING**

Think of three things you know about tornados. What is a tornado? Go round the room swapping details with others.

### **LISTENING – WRITING – DICTATION**

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### **READING**

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### **SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING**

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** – Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** – Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### **Student A questions**

- 1) How many people lived in the town before the tornado?
- 2) What is an EF-5?
- 3) How many homes were destroyed?
- 4) There were hundreds of what?
- 5) What is Tornado Alley?

#### **Student B questions**

- 1) Name the town.
- 2) Which state was hit by what?
- 3) Name the schools.
- 4) How many people were killed?
- 5) How fast were the winds?

**Category: USA / Oklahoma / Tornado**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Oklahoma – After the tornado – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can to do with 'Tornados'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**Oklahoma - After the tornado** - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three similar ideas of your own about the subject. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* - Think of three similar disasters that compare to the tornado in Oklahoma. Write them down. Talk about them. Which one was the worst? *Max 5 mins each!*

**The teacher** will choose some students to hear their discussion.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How safe are your local schools from tornados?
- 3) Will Moore be rebuilt?
- 4) Have you ever helped in a disaster?
- 5) Name two similar disasters.
- 6) Does your town/city have an emergency warning system?
- 7) Have you seen the damage on the TV caused by the tornado in Oklahoma?
- 8) Will you be visiting Oklahoma this year?
- 9) How would you feel if your home was destroyed in a tornado?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the CNN studio in Atlanta. Today's interview is: 'Oklahoma – After the tornado'.

- 1) Someone who saw the tornado
- 2) The local mayor / other
- 3) A rescuer / other
- 4) The President of the USA

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* One of you is a resident of Moore in Oklahoma, USA. The other is a news reporter who will interview you about what you saw. (Imagine!) *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING - GAME

*Groups* – 20 things you might see in Moore, Oklahoma, following the tornado. *5 mins.*

**The teacher** will choose some groups to hear their findings in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

Tornados, how to protect yourself?

Tornado shelters – good idea or not?

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever seen a real tornado?
- 3) Do you get tornados in your country?
- 4) Will Oklahoma State introduce new laws to build stronger tornado shelters in the future?
- 5) Do tornado shelters actually work?
- 6) Will many people simply move away from Moore, Oklahoma, and rebuild their shattered lives elsewhere?
- 7) What will the US government do to help the people of Moore?
- 8) Would you live in Tornado Alley?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### Oklahoma - After the tornado

Today, let's talk about the devastating (1) that recently hit Oklahoma in the USA. The town of Moore near Oklahoma City took a direct hit. Entire streets were reduced to (2) as the powerful storm hit - destroying everything in its path.

Stories have emerged of the (3) of those who tried to (4) others from the tornado, including the teachers who protected their (5) from the storm as two schools took a direct hit. At the Plaza Towers Elementary School seven children were killed when the (6) was ripped off and its walls were knocked down by the tornado as it passed through. At Briarwood Elementary (7) everyone amazingly survived the (8).

**bravery / tornado / ordeal / school / students / roof / rubble / protect**

So far the tornado has cost 24 lives; more than 230 people were injured; 12,000 to 13,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. The (1) created winds of at least 200mph (320km/h).

The National Weather Service (NWS) in the USA listed the tornado as an EF-5 – the most (2) type of tornado on the Fujita scale.

Hundreds of (3) and federal officials assisted in the (4) of the tornado, helping people find accommodation and delivering supplies including food to residents whose homes had been swept away. Disaster centres were set up to (5) people assess what they had lost and what their (6) needs were.

The question is – can the once thriving (7) of 56,000 in Moore rebuild their lives or will many simply decide to move away from Tornado Alley and (8) their shattered lives elsewhere?

**community / volunteers / twister / aftermath / rebuild / powerful / immediate / help**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### Oklahoma - After the tornado

Today, let's talk about the devastating tornado that recently hit Oklahoma in (1) USA. The town of Moore near Oklahoma City took a direct hit. Entire streets were reduced to rubble as the powerful storm hit - destroying everything (2) its path.

Stories have emerged of the bravery (3) those who tried to protect others from the tornado, including the teachers who protected their students from the storm (4) two schools took (5) direct hit. (6) the Plaza Towers Elementary School seven children were killed when the roof was ripped off and its walls were knocked down (7) the tornado as (8) passed through. At Briarwood Elementary school everyone amazingly survived the ordeal.

**it / as / in / of / at / by / a / the**

So far the tornado has cost 24 lives; (1) than 230 people were injured; 12,000 to 13,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. The twister created winds of at least 200mph (320km/h).

The National Weather Service (NWS) in the USA listed the tornado as an EF-5 – the (2) powerful type of tornado on the Fujita scale.

Hundreds of volunteers and federal officials assisted in the aftermath of the tornado, helping people find accommodation and delivering supplies including food to residents (3) homes had been swept away. Disaster centres were set up to help people assess what (4) had lost and (5) their immediate needs were.

The question is – can the once thriving community of 56,000 in Moore rebuild their lives or will (6) simply decide to move away (7) Tornado Alley and rebuild (8) shattered lives elsewhere?

**their / many / most / whose / from / what / they / more**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Oklahoma - After the tornado

Today, let's talk about the \_\_\_\_\_ that recently hit Oklahoma in the USA. The town of Moore near Oklahoma City took a direct hit. Entire streets were reduced to rubble as the \_\_\_\_\_ - destroying everything in its path.

Stories have emerged of the bravery of those who tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the tornado, including the teachers who protected their students from the storm as two schools took a direct hit. At the Plaza Towers Elementary School seven children were killed when \_\_\_\_\_ off and its walls were knocked down by the tornado as it passed through. At Briarwood Elementary school everyone amazingly \_\_\_\_\_.

So far the tornado has cost 24 lives; more than 230 people were injured; 12,000 to 13,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. The twister created winds of at least 200mph (320km/h).

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The question is – can the once \_\_\_\_\_ of 56,000 in Moore rebuild their lives or will many simply decide to move away from Tornado Alley and rebuild their \_\_\_\_\_?

## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/small groups* – list five things you know about **Oklahoma**. Talk about each of them. 5 mins.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Oklahoma \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) The town of Moore \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) The tornado \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Oklahoma – After the tornado**. Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

1)	Tornado	1)	twister
2)	Rubble	2)	powerful
3)	Bravery	3)	volunteers
4)	Protect	4)	aftermath
5)	Students	5)	help
6)	Roof	6)	immediate
7)	School	7)	community
8)	ordeal	8)	rebuild

### ANSWERS

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

1)	Oklahoma	11)	through
2)	tornado	12)	everyone
3)	bravery	13)	twister
4)	powerful	14)	volunteers
5)	recently	15)	officials
6)	rubble	16)	aftermath
7)	everything	17)	accommodatio n
8)	those	18)	residents
9)	protect	19)	assess
10)	elementary	20)	community

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

Oklahoma – After the tornado – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013