

I. Answer these questions.

- a)What is a natural disaster?
- b)Have you experienced any natural disasters in your country?
- c)Describe the worst storm you have been in.
- d)What kind of natural disaster worries you most?
- e)What organizations help in a natural disaster?
- f)Would you go to a shelter in an emergency?
- g)Where is the best place to go in an earthquake?
- h)Did you have disaster drills in school?
- i)Have you ever seen a volcano up close?
- j)Have you ever been in a flood?
- k)Does your city worry about floods?
- l)Would you live close to a volcano?

2. Tell the difference between these vocabulary words:

- a)blizzard and avalanche
- b)flood and drought
- c)tornado and hurricane
- d)mudslide and earthquake
- e)famine and drought
- f)explosion and eruption

3. Idioms:

+A storm is brewing.

This expression can literally mean there is a storm about to happen. It can also mean that there will be trouble. For example, if your mother finds out you skipped school today, there will be a storm brewing at your house.

+weather the storm

When you survive a difficult situation, you weather the storm.

+blow over

When the storm goes by and it is once again calm, the storm blew over.

+flooded out

If you have to leave your home because of rising water, you are flooded out.

+a downpour

a very heavy rainfall

4. Pronouncing ED

People often get CONFUSED about when to pronounce the ED in a word like DEDICATED and when not to pronounce it as in CONFUSED.

Sometimes we sound the ID, sometimes we pronounce it D, and sometimes we pronounce it T.

If the base verb ends in one of these sounds:		example base verb*:	example with -ed:	pronounce the -ed:	extra syllable?
unvoiced	/t/	want	wanted	/ Id/	yes
voiced	/d/	end	ended		
unvoiced	/p/	hope	hoped	/ t/	no
	/f/	laugh	laughed		
	/s/	fax	faxed		
	/S/	wash	washed		
	/tS/	watch	watched		
	/k/	like	liked		
voiced	all other sounds, for example...	play	played	/ d/	
		allow	allowed		
		beg	begged		

* note that it is the **sound** that is important, not the letter or spelling. For example, "fax" ends in the letter "x" but the sound /s/; "like" ends in the letter "e" but the sound /k/.

Exceptions

The following -ed words used **as adjectives** are pronounced with /Id/:

- aged
- blessed
- crooked
- dogged
- learned
- naked
- ragged
- wicked
- wretched

So we say:

- an aged man /Id/
- a blessed nuisance /Id/
- a dogged persistence /Id/
- a learned professor - the professor, who was truly learned /Id/
- a wretched beggar - the beggar was wretched /Id/

But when used as real verbs (past simple and past participle), the normal rules apply and we say:

- he aged quickly /d/
- he blessed me /t/
- they dogged him /d/
- he has learned well /d/ or /t/

Practice pronouncing these ED words: cried, walked, chatted, waded, passed, grabbed, moved, kissed, added, laughed, needed, viewed, robbed, waited, stopped, hoped, sounded, mended, snowed, cleaned, fainted.

