



EXTREME WEATHER HITS SPAIN



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
192H-T38C-UTN9



1

Warm up

In pairs answer these questions:

1. Do you always try and look at or read the weather forecast?
2. Have you ever been in any extreme form of weather? What happened?

2

Before you watch



You are going to watch a news report about Spanish people dealing with heavy snow conditions. Why do you think the following things are mentioned in the video?

1. 4X4 vehicles
2. hospital entrances
3. 22 kilometres
4. huskies

Now watch the video. Were your predictions correct?





3

Synonyms

Look at these words from the video you have watched. For each one, choose the correct synonym.

1. disruption (n)
 - a. failure
 - b. success
 - c. disturbance
2. clear (v)
 - a. change
 - b. unblock
 - c. use
3. assist (v)
 - a. buy
 - b. give
 - c. help
4. journey (v)
 - a. travel
 - b. walk
 - c. fly
5. trek (v)
 - a. walk
 - b. climb
 - c. travel
6. solidarity (n)
 - a. work
 - b. freedom
 - c. unity

4

Understanding the video



Underline the correct words in the sentences. Then watch the video again to check your answers.

1. Madrid was covered in about **40/50/60** centimetres of snow.
2. The snow fell on **Thursday and Friday/Friday and Saturday/Saturday and Sunday**.
3. Fernando de la Fuente is a **doctor/nurse/volunteer**.
4. Some medical workers had to **leave/drive/sell** their cars.
5. Alvaro Sanchez walked **twenty-two/seventeen/several** kilometres to work.
6. The temperature in Spain was expected to reach **-12 degrees Centigrade/12 degrees Centigrade/-12 degrees Fahrenheit**.

In pairs, answer these questions:

1. Do you know anyone who has acted heroically or been particularly helpful to strangers in an emergency?
2. What would you have done if there was a large snow storm and you were unable to get to work?



5

Understanding vocabulary

Part A: Match the definitions to the vocabulary.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. sub-zero | a. a serious request for help that is needed immediately, usually made by charities, the police or the government |
| 2. trapped | b. be in a dangerous place or situation that you cannot get out of |
| 3. struggle | c. something that is used temporarily for a particular purpose because the real thing is not available |
| 4. impossibility | d. something that you are not able to do |
| 5. makeshift | e. temperatures that are below zero, or freezing |
| 6. appeal | f. the act of keeping a safe distance between yourself and other people in order to prevent the spread of disease |
| 7. the Iberian Peninsula | g. the geographical area covering Spain and Portugal and separated from the rest of Europe by the Pyrenees |
| 8. social-distancing | h. try very hard to do something when it is difficult or there are a lot of problems |

Part B: Insert the words from Part A into the gaps in the following questions.

1. During the pandemic, have you been practising _____ ? What were the rules in your country?
2. Have you ever visited _____ ? Where did you go? What did you think of it? If not, where would you want to go?
3. Have you ever needed to _____ to anyone for help?
4. Have you ever stayed in _____ accommodation? What was the reason?
5. Have you ever been in _____ temperatures? Is it a big problem for you, or do you enjoy it?
6. Have you ever been _____ in a situation or a place? What happened?
7. What activity is an _____ for you? Why would you never do it?
8. What part of learning English do you _____ with? Why do you think you find it difficult?

Now answer the questions.



6

Skim reading

Quickly read through the text and find the number to go with the description.

1. The lowest temperature in centigrade that temperatures fell to. _____
2. The number of people who slept in makeshift accommodation. _____
3. The number of people who have died so far. _____
4. The number of injuries reported related to the ice on the Monday. _____
5. The number of kilometres of road that were cleared of snow. _____
6. The number of vehicles involved in clearing the snow. _____

Storm Filomena

- snow and icy temperatures hit Spain

1. On the 5th January 2021, Storm Filomena arrived into southern Europe bringing **sub-zero** conditions and snow, causing difficulties from **the Iberian Peninsula** all the way down to Morocco in North Africa. Temperatures fell to -8°C, and reaching as low as -25°C following the storm.
2. Thousands of people travelling through the area were left unable to continue with their journeys as Madrid's International Airport cancelled all flights. Train services in and out of Madrid were also temporarily stopped. Around 500 people were left sleeping in **makeshift** accommodation, such as sports centres and shopping centres, as a result of the storm, with some forced to spend the night **trapped** in their own cars.
3. At least seven people have died since the storm began, with one couple in Andalucia drowned after a river flooded and took their car with it, and another man dying after he was buried by the snow. There has also been a major rise in the number of injuries from the ice.
4. Hospitals in the Madrid area reported 1,200 cases of injuries on Monday which averaged out to 50 cases per hour. This caused the government to **appeal** to citizens, particularly the elderly, to stay at home.
5. The effort to deal with the snow has been enormous. Over the course of 24 hours, 12,100 kilometres of roads were cleared by 1,300 vehicles as authorities battled to unblock routes before the snow turned to ice in the falling temperatures.
6. Coping with a storm like this would normally be a difficult challenge, but for a country still very much dealing with Covid-19, this has hit Spain very hard.
7. Hospital workers **struggled** to reach their posts as snow made travelling by car an **impossibility** for some. This in turn caused a heavy increase in the use of public transport which raised concerns as people packed the Madrid Metro on Monday morning. Due to the significant numbers, people were unable to practice **social-distancing** which may lead to an increase in Covid-19 cases.

Source: BBC



7

Understanding the text

Answer the following questions True or False.

1. The lowest temperature reached was - 8 degrees centigrade.
2. People could not leave Madrid by train or by plane.
3. Some people had to sleep in a shopping centre because of the storm.
4. Hospitals in the Madrid area had 50 people arriving every hour.
5. The government was concerned about the problems they might have if the snow turned to ice.
6. There was too much snow for some people to drive to work.
7. As a result of the snow, more people were using public transport.
8. It was safe to travel on the Metro on Monday morning.

8

Talking point

Now in pairs or a group, discuss the following questions.

1. Have you ever had travel plans disrupted due to weather conditions? What happened?
2. What extreme forms of weather do you have in your country? What kind of problems does it create?
3. What kinds of weather are you most comfortable in? Which country has the best weather in your opinion? Why?
4. What responsibility does the government have when it comes to extreme forms of weather do you think? What are they responsible for?
5. Do you think people should have been stopped from travelling on the Madrid Metro? Why? Why not?