

Lesson 45: Earthquake

Hi! How are you today?

Today's lesson is about "**Earthquake**".

Have fun learning English!

Warm-up | Useful Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

Vocabulary

- **earthquake** - a sudden and violent shaking of the earth's surface, sometimes causing great damage
- **aftershock** - secondary tremors following the biggest shaking of the earth
- **building code** - a set of rules for building objects and buildings specifying the minimally acceptable level of safety
- **seismic code** - part of the building code specified in the requirements to make the building safe and resistant to earthquakes
- **epicenter** - the place where the earthquake is felt the most; the place on the surface closest to the one where the earthquake is coming from
- **seismograph** - an instrument used for measuring the strength of the earthquake
- **tremor** - a small earthquake
- **seismically active** - having recent or usual activity of earthquakes
- **enlighten** - to give intellectual and spiritual understanding of something

Expressions

- **frighten one out of one's wits** - to make someone very afraid
- **scared to death** - an expression referring to being very scared
- **cool, calm, and collected** - incredibly calm even when faced with dangerous situation
- **be another of life's great mysteries** - humorous saying about something you can never understand
- **no news** - it's nothing new

Activity 1 | Dialogue

Directions: Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

Inna and Reshi are talking about an earthquake that happened yesterday.

Reshi: Hey Inna! Geez, did you hear about yesterday's earthquake the **epicenter** of which was in North Carolina?

Inna: Unfortunately, I heard about it. Well, no wonder they have a **building code** with a **seismic code** included in the requirements for architectural structures. If that would not exist the loss would have been much greater. I believe they are **scared to death** now.

Reshi: You are right, Inna, they are still feeling **aftershocks**! Imagine you are a survivor of an earthquake that was 8.2 according to **seismographs**, and the day after you are still feeling aftershocks stating that there might be another big earthquake or something...

Inna: I would be frightened out of my wits!

Reshi: On the other hand, now that I think of it, ground is shaking almost all the time and we're experiencing some **tremors** that we don't even feel, but they happen under the ground everywhere.

Inna: By tremors you mean very small earthquakes? Yes, however, they are usually not dangerous, unless you live in a **seismically active place**. It is **no news** that if you have earthquakes every three months then even a slightly stronger tremor does not seem very safe or normal anymore.

Reshi: By the way, I heard in one of the buildings there were some yoga classes taking place. This was broadcasted on the news since the yoga master was so **cool, calm, and collected**. He was instructing everyone in the building how to leave it safely. It will **be another of life's great mysteries** for me. I have no idea how people can be so calm under such circumstances.

Inna: I guess they must be crazy in general. It is usually these people that we think are kind of weird if we see them on the street. Well, you know, after all, it is said that yoga **enlightens** people.

Check your understanding: Answer the following questions.

1. What details about the earthquake did you learn from this dialogue?
2. What is a building code and why is it important?
3. How do Inna and Reshi think it feels to live in a seismically active place?
4. What did Inna and Reshi refer to when talking about another of life's great mysteries?

Activity 2 | Discussion

Directions: Discuss the following idiomatic expressions with your teacher. Share your thoughts about them.

- Scared to death.
- Frightened out of one's wits.
- Calm, cool and collected.
- It is no news.
- To become enlightened.

Activity 3 | Free Conversation

Directions: Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions.

1. Have you ever experienced an earthquake?
2. Do you live in a seismically active place? If yes, how does it feel? If no, then imagine how it feels and talk about it.
3. Are you calm in extreme situations? Why?
4. Do you know any calm, cool and collected people around you? What do you think about such personal qualities?
5. How do you feel when you hear about natural disasters in your country and all over the world? Do you follow the news about them?