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Ready-to-Use English Lessons by Sean Banville

Level 3 – 28th December, 2018

Japan chooses 'disaster' to describe 2018

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https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster.html

Contents

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

The year 2018 is coming to an end. For some people it was a great year, and for other people it wasn't so great. In Japan, an organization conducted a survey to ask people for the word they thought best described 2018. The winner of this survey was the word "disaster". The *kanji* (Chinese character) that Japanese people chose means "disaster or misfortune". The organization said people chose the *kanji* for disaster because of the many natural disasters to hit Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by deadly typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains that caused widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people lost their lives in these disasters and many roads and homes were destroyed.

The organization is called the Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation. It has conducted a "word of the year" survey annually since 1995. This year, it received suggestions from 193,214 people. The second most popular *kanji* was the character for "peace". Last year, "north" was the winner. This was because of increasing tensions over North Korea's nuclear tests. The rest of the world was also hit by devastating natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. Wars also raged across the world, especially in Syria and Yemen. There was also a lot of suffering because of immigration - people trying to move to other countries to find a new life. People hope the next *kanji* will be "happiness".

WARM-UPS

1. DISASTER: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about disaster. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

> year / 2018 / great / organization / winner / disaster / natural disasters / typhoons / survey / annually / suggestion / peace / nuclear test / hurricane / tsunami / happiness

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. WHICH YEAR?: Students A **strongly** believe 2019 will be better than 2018; Students B **strongly** believe 2019 will be worse. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. 2018: How was it for you? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Good	**Bad**
Studying		
Shopping		
Family		
Friends		
Love		
Hobbies		

5. SURVEY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "survey". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. 2019: Rank these with your partner. Put the things you most want to change in 2019 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- your English level
- your hairstyle
- money
- your job

- your weight
- your friends
- your health
- your hobbies

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

1.	coming to an end	a.	Questions on the opinions or experience of a group of people, based on a series of questions.
2.	conducted	b.	A natural event such as a flood, earthquake, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life.
3.	survey	c.	Almost at a finish.
4.	described	d.	Carried out; did.
5.	character	e.	Give an account of something or talk about something in words.
6.	natural disaster	f.	A printed or written letter or symbol.
7.	destruction	g.	The action or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exists or cannot be repaired.

Paragraph 2

8.	organization	h.	Continued with great force.
9.	annually	i.	A group of people with a particular purpose, especially a business, society, association, etc.
10.	suggestion	j.	Bad, difficult or stressful relations between people or countries.
11.	tension	k.	The action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.
12.	raged	l.	Once a year; every year.
13.	immigration	m.	A feeling of wanting something to happen and desire for a certain thing to happen.
14.	hope	n.	An idea or plan put forward for consideration.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

   a. The article said 2018 was a bad year for everyone.   **T / F**

   b. An organization asked people what was the best kanji to describe 2018. **T / F**

   c. The character people chose means "disaster and misfortune".   **T / F**

   d. The article says there was a killer heatwave in Japan in 2018.   **T / F**

   e. The organization is a kanji altitude testing group.   **T / F**

   f. The organization has been asking for the kanji of the year since 1995.   **T / F**

   g. The winning kanji for 2017 was "south".   **T / F**

   h. People hope the winning kanji next year will be "money".   **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**end**	a.	stress
2.	**conducted**	b.	extensive
3.	**survey**	c.	wish
4.	**widespread**	d.	carried out
5.	**destroyed**	e.	got
6.	**annually**	f.	questionnaire
7.	**received**	g.	hurting
8.	**tensions**	h.	finish
9.	**suffering**	i.	every year
10.	**hope**	j.	demolished

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1.	The year 2018 is coming	a.	character
2.	the word they thought best	b.	across the world
3.	Chinese	c.	lives in these disasters
4.	Japan was hit	d.	193,214 people
5.	Hundreds of people lost their	e.	nuclear tests
6.	annually	f.	by deadly typhoons
7.	received suggestions from	g.	of immigration
8.	increasing tensions over North Korea's	h.	to an end
9.	Wars also raged	i.	since 1995
10.	a lot of suffering because	j.	described 2018

GAP FILL

The year 2018 is coming to an (1) _____. For some people it was a great year, and for other people it wasn't so (2) _____. In Japan, an organization conducted a survey to ask people for the (3) _____ they thought best described 2018. The winner of this survey was the word "disaster". The *kanji* (Chinese (4) _____) that Japanese people chose means "disaster or misfortune". The organization said people chose the *kanji* for disaster (5) _____ of the many natural disasters to hit Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by deadly typhoons, earthquakes, heavy (6) _____ that caused widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people (7) _____ their lives in these disasters and many roads and (8) _____ were destroyed.

character

end

lost

great

homes

because

word

rains

The organization is called the Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation. It has conducted a "word of the year" (9) _____ annually since 1995. This year, it received suggestions from 193,214 people. The (10) _____ most popular *kanji* was the character for "peace". Last year, "north" was the (11) _____. This was because of increasing (12) _____ over North Korea's nuclear tests. The rest of the world was also hit by devastating natural disasters, (13) _____ wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. Wars also raged across the world, (14) _____ in Syria and Yemen. There was also a lot of suffering because of immigration - people trying to move to (15) _____ countries to find a new life. People hope the next *kanji* will be "(16) _____ ".

including

winner

other

survey

happiness

especially

second

tensions

LISTENING − Guess the answers. Listen to check.

1) The year 2018 is coming to an end. For some people it was a _____
   a. great year
   b. grate year
   c. greet year
   d. greatly year

2) conducted a survey to ask people for the word they thought _____ 2018
   a. best describe it
   b. best described
   c. bested described
   d. bested describe

3) The *kanji* (Chinese character) that Japanese people chose means "disaster _____"
   a. or miss fortune
   b. or misfortune
   c. or miss fortunate
   d. or missed fortune

4) people chose the *kanji* for disaster because of the many natural _____ Japan
   a. disasters too hit
   b. disasters two hit
   c. disasters to hit
   d. disasters though hit

5) people lost their lives in these disasters and many roads and homes _____
   a. were destroys
   b. were destroying
   c. were destroy it
   d. were destroyed

6) It has conducted a "word of the year" survey _____ 1995
   a. annually since
   b. annually for
   c. annually past
   d. annually over

7) The rest of the world was also hit by _____ disasters
   a. devastating naturalize
   b. devastating naturals
   c. devastating naturally
   d. devastating natural

8) Wars also raged across the world, _____ Syria
   a. especial in
   b. special in
   c. especial lying
   d. especially in

9) a lot of suffering because of immigration - people trying to move _____ countries
   a. to another
   b. to other
   c. to others
   d. to the others

10) People hope the next kanji will _____
   a. been "happiness"
   b. being "happiness"
   c. be "happiness"
   d. bee "happiness"

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

The year 2018 is coming (1) _____. For some people it was a great year, and for other people it (2) _____. In Japan, an organization conducted a survey to ask people for the word they thought best described 2018. The (3) _____ survey was the word "disaster". The *kanji* (Chinese character) that Japanese people chose means "disaster or misfortune". The organization (4) _____ the *kanji* for disaster because of the many natural disasters to hit Japan in 2018. Japan (5) _____ deadly typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains that caused widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people (6) _____ in these disasters and many roads and homes were destroyed.

The organization is called the Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation. It has conducted a "word of the year" (7) _____ 1995. This year, it received suggestions from 193,214 people. The second most popular *kanji* (8) _____ for "peace". Last year, "north" was the winner. This was because of increasing tensions over North Korea's nuclear tests. The (9) _____ world was also hit by devastating natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. Wars (10) _____ the world, especially in Syria and Yemen. There was also (11) _____ suffering because of immigration - people trying to move to other countries to find a new life. People hope the next *kanji* (12) _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the article say 2018 is coming to?

2. Who did an organization ask what the word for 2018 was?

3. What did the winning kanji mean besides "disaster"?

4. What did the article say caused widespread destruction in Japan?

5. What did the article say were destroyed by natural disasters?

6. Since when has the organization been asking for a kanji of the year?

7. What was the second most popular kanji for this year?

8. What was the winning kanji for 2017?

9. What did the article say was raging around the world?

10. What do people hope next year's kanji will be?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

1) What did the article say 2018 is coming to?
a) a grand finale
b) an end
c) the 21st century
d) a road

2) Who did an organization ask what the word for 2018 was?
a) English students
b) children
c) Chinese people
d) people

3) What did the winning kanji mean besides "disaster"?
a) misfortune
b) terrible
c) destruction
d) doom

4) What did the article say caused widespread destruction in Japan?
a) a volcano
b) earthquakes
c) heavy rains
d) landslides

5) What did the article say were destroyed by natural disasters?
a) towns and villages
b) roads and homes
c) roads and bridges
d) homes and shops

6) Since when has the organization been asking for a kanji of the year?
a) 1995
b) 1996
c) 1997
d) 1998

7) What was the second most popular kanji for this year?
a) hope
b) love
c) peace
d) money

8) What was the winning kanji for 2017?
a) north
b) south
c) east
d) west

9) What did the article say was raging around the world?
a) wars
b) fires
c) anger
d) poverty

10) What do people hope next year's kanji will be?
a) health
b) wealth
c) success
d) happiness

ROLE PLAY

Role A –English Level

You think English level is the most important thing to change for 2019. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these things to change (and why): hairstyle, friends or hobbies.

Role B –Hairstyle

You think hairstyle is the most important thing to change for 2019. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these things to change (and why): English level, friends or hobbies.

Role C – Friends

You think friends are the most important thing to change for 2019. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these things to change (and why): hairstyle, English level or hobbies.

Role D – Hobbies

You think hobbies the most important thing to change for 2019. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these things to change (and why): hairstyle, friends or English level.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'disaster' and '2018'.

disaster	2018

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• end	• called
• ask	• since
• character	• second
• deadly	• north
• killer	• also
• homes	• hope

DISASTER SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about disaster in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

DISASTER DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?

2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'disaster'?

3. How was 2018 for you?

4. What was the best thing about 2018?

5. What was the worst thing about 2018?

6. What changed in your life in 2018?

7. What word would you choose to describe 2018?

8. Have there been any disasters to hit your country?

9. How prepared are you if a disaster hit?

10. What would you do if there was a natural disaster?

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DISASTER DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?

12. What do you think of when you hear the word '2018'?

13. What do you think about what you read?

14. What were the biggest world events of 2018?

15. Where are the biggest tensions in the world?

16. What would you like to happen next year?

17. Will there be fewer wars next year?

18. How has your English improved this year?

19. What do you think 2019 will be like?

20. What questions would you like to ask the people who made the survey?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

<u>STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)</u>

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

<u>STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)</u>

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

The year 2018 is coming to an (1) _____. For some people it was a great year, and for other people it wasn't so great. In Japan, an organization (2) _____ a survey to ask people for the word they thought (3) _____ described 2018. The winner of this survey was the word "disaster". The *kanji* (Chinese character) that Japanese people (4) _____ means "disaster or misfortune". The organization said people chose the *kanji* for disaster because of the (5) _____ natural disasters to hit Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by deadly typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains that caused widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people (6) _____ their lives in these disasters and many roads and homes were destroyed.

The organization is called the Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation. It has conducted a "word of the year" survey (7) _____ since 1995. This year, it received (8) _____ from 193,214 people. The second most popular *kanji* was the character for "peace". Last year, "north" was the winner. This was because of increasing tensions (9) _____ North Korea's nuclear tests. The rest of the world was also hit by devastating natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. Wars also (10) _____ across the world, especially in Syria and Yemen. There was also a lot of (11) _____ because of immigration - people trying to move to other countries to find a new life. People (12) _____ the next *kanji* will be "happiness".

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

1.	(a)	finished	(b)	finishing	(c)	ended	(d)	end
2.	(a)	conduction	(b)	conducting	(c)	conducts	(d)	conducted
3.	(a)	good	(b)	best	(c)	well	(d)	nice
4.	(a)	selection	(b)	choosing	(c)	chose	(d)	decision
5.	(a)	many	(b)	some	(c)	more	(d)	much
6.	(a)	lost	(b)	losing	(c)	loses	(d)	losses
7.	(a)	annuity	(b)	annul	(c)	annual	(d)	annually
8.	(a)	suggestions	(b)	suggestive	(c)	suggests	(d)	suggesting
9.	(a)	under	(b)	over	(c)	through	(d)	as
10.	(a)	rated	(b)	raked	(c)	raged	(d)	razed
11.	(a)	suffer	(b)	suffers	(c)	suffering	(d)	suffered
12.	(a)	hopping	(b)	hope	(c)	hop	(d)	hops

SPELLING

Paragraph 1

1. neucodctd a survey

2. Chinese ertrhacac

3. disaster or mrtniofseu

4. Japan was hit by deadly nopsothy

5. a killer eveatahw

6. roads and homes were deeydsort

Paragraph 2

7. lnuaanly since 1995

8. it received etsgongsuis

9. because of increasing sennotsi

10. wildfires, scarnheriu and tsunami

11. yspclieale in Syria

12. a lot of nsefugrif

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From   https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1812/181228-disaster.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

(***1***)   The year 2018 is coming to an end. For some people it was a great year, and for other people it wasn't so

(   )   and tsunami. Wars also raged across the world, especially in Syria and Yemen. There was

(   )   character) that Japanese people chose means "disaster or misfortune". The organization said people chose the *kanji*

(   )   The organization is called the Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation. It has conducted a "word of

(   )   typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains that caused widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds

(   )   North Korea's nuclear tests. The rest of the world was also hit by devastating natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes

(   )   described 2018. The winner of this survey was the word "disaster". The *kanji* (Chinese

(   )   the year" survey annually since 1995. This year, it received suggestions from 193,214 people. The second most popular *kanji* was the

(   )   of people lost their lives in these disasters and many roads and homes were destroyed.

(   )   great. In Japan, an organization conducted a survey to ask people for the word they thought best

(   )   for disaster because of the many natural disasters to hit Japan in 2018. Japan was hit by deadly

(   )   to find a new life. People hope the next *kanji* will be "happiness".

(   )   also a lot of suffering because of immigration - people trying to move to other countries

(   )   character for "peace". Last year, "north" was the winner. This was because of increasing tensions over

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

1. was   some   a   people   great   year   .   it   For

2. survey   a   ask   An   to   people   .   conducted   organization

3. winner   "disaster"   .   survey   of   this   The   was

4. deadly   by   2018,   hit   was   Japan   In   typhoons   .

5. lost   of   lives   their   people   Hundreds   disasters   .   in

6. 193,214   This   from   received   suggestions   people   .   year,   it

7. *kanji*   The   popular   for   was   second   most   "peace"   .

8. world,   raged   the   across   Syria   .   Wars   especially   also

9. for   countries   Move   a   other   life   .   new   to

10. *kanji*   People   will   be   the   hope   next   "happiness"   .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

The year 2018 is coming to an *end / finish*. For some people it was a great year, and for other people it wasn't so *grate / great*. In Japan, an organization conducted a survey *to / for* ask people for the word they thought best *description / described* 2018. The winner of this survey *were / was* the word "disaster". The *kanji* (Chinese character) that Japanese people chose means "disaster or *misfortune / fortune*". The organization said people chose the *kanji* for disaster because of the many *naturally / natural* disasters to hit Japan in 2018. Japan was hit *by / at* deadly typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains that *cause / caused* widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. Hundreds of people lost their lives in *them / these* disasters and many roads and homes were destroyed.

The organization is *calling / called* the Japan *Kanji* Aptitude Testing Foundation. It has *conducted / conducting* a "word of the year" survey *annual / annually* since 1995. This year, it received *suggestive / suggestions* from 193,214 people. The second most *popularly / popular kanji* was the character for "peace". Last year, "north" was the *winner / winning*. This was because of increasing tensions over North Korea's nuclear tests. The rest of the world was also hit *off / by* devastating natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. Wars also *raged / enraged* across the world, especially in Syria and Yemen. There was also a lot of suffering because of immigration - people trying to *movement / move* to other countries to find a new life. People hope the next *kanji* will *being / be* "happiness".

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

T h_   y__ r   2 0 1 8   _s   c_m_n g   t_ _n   _n d .   F_r s_m_   p__ p l_ _t   w_s   _   g r__ t   y__ r ,   _n d   f_r   _t h_r   p__ p l_ _t   w_s n ' t   s_   g r__ t .   I n   J_p_n ,   _n _r g_n_z_t__ n   c_n d_c t_d   _   s_r v_y   t_ _s k   p__ p l_ f_r   t h_   w_r d   t h_y   t h__ g h t   b_s t   d_s c r_b_d   2 0 1 8 .   T h_   w_n n_r   _f   t h_s   s_r v_y   w_s   t h_   w_r d   " d_s_s t_r " .   T h_   k_n j_   (C h_n s_   c h_r_c t_r)   t h_t   J_p_n_s_   p__ p l_   c h_s_   m__ n s   " d_s_s t_r   _r m_s f_r t_n_ " .   T h_   _r g_n_z_t__ n   s__ d   p__ p l_   c h_s_   t h_   k_n j_   f_r   d_s_s t_r   b_c__ s_   _f   t h_   m_n y n_t_r_l   d_s_s t_r s   t_   h_t   J_p_n   _n   2 0 1 8 .   J_p_n w_s   h_t   b y   d__ d l y   t y p h__ n s ,   __ r t h q__ k_s ,   h__ v y   r__ n s   t h_t   c__ s_d   w_d s p r__ d   d_s t r_c t__ n ,   _n d   _   k_l l_r   h__ t w_v_ .   H_n d r_d s   _f p__ p l_   l_s t   t h__ r   l_v_s   _n   t h_s_   d_s_s t_r s   _n d   m_n y   r__ d s   _n d   h_m_s   w_r_   d_s t r_y_d .

T h_   _r g_n_z_t__ n   _s   c_l l_d   t h_   J_p_n   K_n j_   A p t_t_d_   T_s t_n g   F__ n d_t__ n .   I t   h_s   c_n d_c t_d _   " w_r d   _f   t h_   y__ r "   s_r v_y   _n n__ l l y   s_n c_ 1 9 9 5 .   T h_s   y__ r ,   _t   r_c__ v_d   s_g g_s t__ n s f r_m   1 9 3 , 2 1 4   p__ p l_ .   T h_   s_c_n d   m_s t p_p_l_r   k_n j_   w_s   t h_   c h_r_c t_r   f_r   " p__ c_ " . L_s t   y__ r ,   " n_r t h "   w_s   t h_   w_n n_r .   T h_s w_s   b_c__ s_   _f   _n c r__ s_n g   t_n s__ n s   _v_r   N_r t h   K_r__ ' s   n_c l__ r   t_s t s .   T h_   r_s t   _f   t h_ w_r l d   w_s   _l s_   h_t   b y   d_v_s t_t_n g   n_t_r_l d_s_s t_r s ,   _n c l_d_n g   w_l d f_r_s ,   h_r r_c_n_s   _n d t s_n_m_ .   W_r s   _l s_   r_g_d   _c r_s s   t h_   w_r l d ,   _s p_c__ l l y   _n   S y r__   _n d   Y_m_n .   T h_r_   w_s   _l s_ _   l_t   _f   s_f f_r_n g   b_c__ s_   _f   _m m_g r_t__ n   - p__ p l_   t r y_n g   t_   m_v_   t_   _t h_r   c__ n t r__ s   t_ f_n d   _   n_w   l_f_ .   P__ p l_   h_p_   t h_   n_x t   k_n j_ w_l l   b_   " h_p p_n_s s " .

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

the year 2018 is coming to an end. for some people it was a great year, and for other people it wasn't so great. in japan, an organization conducted a survey to ask people for the word they thought best described 2018. the winner of this survey was the word "disaster". the *kanji* (chinese character) that japanese people chose means "disaster or misfortune". the organization said people chose the *kanji* for disaster because of the many natural disasters to hit japan in 2018. japan was hit by deadly typhoons, earthquakes, heavy rains that caused widespread destruction, and a killer heatwave. hundreds of people lost their lives in these disasters and many roads and homes were destroyed.

the organization is called the japan *kanji* aptitude testing foundation. it has conducted a "word of the year" survey annually since 1995. this year, it received suggestions from 193,214 people. the second most popular *kanji* was the character for "peace". last year, "north" was the winner. this was because of increasing tensions over north korea's nuclear tests. the rest of the world was also hit by devastating natural disasters, including wildfires, hurricanes and tsunami. wars also raged across the world, especially in syria and yemen. there was also a lot of suffering because of immigration - people trying to move to other countries to find a new life. people hope the next *kanji* will be "happiness".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

Theyear2018iscomingtoanend.Forsomepeopleitwasagreatyear,and forotherpeopleitwasn'tsogreat.InJapan,anorganizationconducteda surveytoaskpeoplefortheworddtheythoughtbestdescribed2018.The winnerofthissurveywastheword"disaster".The*kanji*(Chinesecharact er)thatJapanesepeoplechosemeans"disasterormisfortune".Theorga nizationsaidpeoplechosethe*kanji*fordisasterbecauseofthemanynatu raldisasterstohitJapanin2018.Japanwashitbydeadlytyphoons,earth quakes,heavyrainsthatcausedwidespreaddestruction,andakillerhea twave.Hundredsofpeoplelosttheirlivesinthesedisastersandmanyroa dsandhomesweredestroyed.TheorganizationiscalledtheJapan*Kanji* AptitudeTestingFoundation.Ithasconducteda"wordoftheyear"surve yannuallysince1995.Thisyear,itreceivedsuggestionsfrom193,214p eople.Thesecondmostpopular*kanji*wasthecharacterfor"peace".Last year,"north"wasthewinner.Thiswasbecauseofincreasingtensionsov erNorthKorea'snucleartests.Therestoftheworldwasalsohitbydevast atingnaturaldisasters,includingwildfires,hurricanesandtsunami.Wa rsalsoragedacrosstheworld,especiallyinSyriaandYemen.Therewasal soalotofsufferingbecauseofimmigration-peopletryingtomovetoothe rcountriestofindanewlife.Peoplehopethenext*kanji*willbe"happiness"
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FREE WRITING

Write about **disaster** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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ACADEMIC WRITING

The world in 2018 was a disaster. Discuss.

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HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. DISASTER: Make a poster about disaster. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. 2018: Write a magazine article about disaster being the best word to describe 2018. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on disaster. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your opinions on the year 2018. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c   2. d   3. a   4. e   5. f   6. b   7. g
8. i   9. l   10. n   11. j   12. h   13. k   14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

a F   b T   c T   d T   e F   f T   g F   h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1.	end	a.	finish
2.	conducted	b.	carried out
3.	survey	c.	questionnaire
4.	widespread	d.	extensive
5.	destroyed	e.	demolished
6.	annually	f.	every year
7.	received	g.	got
8.	tensions	h.	stress
9.	suffering	i.	hurting
10.	hope	j.	wish

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. An end
2. People
3. Misfortune
4. Heavy rains
5. Roads and homes
6. 1995
7. Peace
8. North
9. Wars
10. Happiness

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. For some people it was a great year.
2. An organization conducted a survey to ask people.
3. The winner of this survey was "disaster".
4. In 2018, Japan was hit by deadly typhoons.
5. Hundreds of people lost their lives in disasters.
6. This year, it received suggestions from 193,214 people.
7. The second most popular *kanji* was for "peace".
8. Wars also raged across the world, especially Syria.
9. Move to other countries for a new life.
10. People hope the next *kanji* will be "happiness".

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b   2. d   3. a   4. c   5. b   6. a   7. c   8. a   9. a   10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)