



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Sichuan Earthquake 四川地震

## Sichuan Earthquake 四川地震

### China Mourns Victims of the Sichuan Earthquake 中国为震灾遇难者哀悼

**Read the text below and do the activity that follows.**

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Flags are flying at **half-mast** across China.

China is coming to the end of an official period of **mourning** for those who died in last week's earthquake. For three days, there have been no entertainment events and the government has **suspended** the Olympic torch relay.

Chinese officials have said that the **death toll** from the **catastrophe** has now risen to over 41,000. Over 230,000 people were injured.

Along with the many **accounts** of suffering and loss, there have been a few amazing stories of survival. Chinese news reported today that a woman in Hongbai has been rescued after being trapped in a tunnel for nine days. She has been taken to hospital and is expected to survive.

However, **hopes are quickly fading** for those who remain trapped. According to the State Council over 32,000 people are missing in the quake area.

The rescue workers' attention is now turning towards the **recovery of bodies** from the **rubble** and providing food, shelter and drinking water for the survivors.

But the **relief operation** has been **hampered** by a series of **aftershocks**, the strongest measuring 6.1 on the **Richter scale**.

Chinese news reports say that **mudslides** have buried 200 relief workers in the past four days. There are also reports that thousands of residents have been **evacuated** from an area in Qingchuan county where large cracks have appeared in the top of a mountain.

On Monday, tens of thousands of people rushed from their homes after the government warned of a possible major aftershock. They slept on the streets or drove to **open ground**.

**Persistent** rain is **compounding** the misery for the homeless. The foreign ministry has **appealed** to the international community to provide tents for the five million people who have lost their homes.

Yesterday, Premier Wen Jiabao **pledged** to send 250,000 temporary housing units to the region by the end of June, and one million within three months.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>half-mast</b> – 降半旗	<b>mourning</b> – 哀悼
<b>suspended</b> – 暂停	<b>death toll</b> – 死亡人数
<b>catastrophe</b> – (突如其来的) 大灾难	<b>accounts</b> – (个人) 陈述, 解释
<b>hopes are quickly fading</b> – 希望渺茫	<b>recovery of bodies</b> – 找回 (遇难者) 尸体
<b>rubble</b> – 碎石, 碎砖	<b>relief operation</b> – 营救行动
<b>hampered</b> – (受到) 阻碍	<b>aftershocks</b> – 余震
<b>Richter scale</b> – 里氏震级	<b>mudslides</b> – 泥石流
<b>evacuated</b> – 疏散	<b>open ground</b> – 开阔地, 露天地
<b>persistent</b> – 持续的	<b>compounding</b> – (因进一步伤害) 使 (坏事) 更坏
<b>appealed</b> – 求助	<b>pledged</b> – 承诺, 给予 (援助)

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

**Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.**

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. China has not been flying flags during its period of mourning. **True / False**
2. One woman was rescued after being buried for over a week. **True / False**
4. Relief workers are beginning to focus on rescuing those still trapped. **True / False**
3. On Monday many people slept away from their homes because they were worried about a possible aftershock. **True / False**
5. Wen Jiabao has promised to send a million temporary housing units by the end of June. **True / False**

## 2. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 1 动词, 名词和形容词 1

Fill in the table below putting the verbs, nouns and adjectives in the right columns. The first one has been done for you.

请把以下词汇按照其各自词性分类。我们用 'mourning' 这个形容词举了例子。

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
	mourning	

mourning

half-mast

to suspend

aftershock

to hamper

persistent

catastrophe

amazing

Richter scale

### **3. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 2 动词, 名词和形容词 2**

**Complete the sentences below with the verbs, nouns and adjectives from Exercise 2.**

请用练习2 中的动词, 名词和形容词来完成以下句子。

1. He keeps asking me to join his company. I've said 'no' but he's very \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Her husband died last month and she still hasn't returned to work. She's still in \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Have you seen Chris's new phone? You can watch TV on it – it's really \_\_\_\_\_!

4. Their boss decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the scheme while the complaints were investigated.

5. Bad weather \_\_\_\_\_ the rescue operation.

6. When a member of the royal family dies, flags in the UK are flown at \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **4. Writing activity** 写作练习

**Rewrite each of the sentences using one of the words or phrases in the box below.**

请从给出的单词中选择一个合适的来改写以下句子。

<b>mourning</b>	<b>catastrophe</b>	<b>rubble</b>	<b>open ground</b>
<b>hampered</b>	<b>evacuated</b>	<b>appealed</b>	<b>pledged</b>

1. Bad weather made the rescue more difficult.
2. They brought in bulldozers to clear the fallen remains of a building.
3. She heard about the disaster on the radio.
4. They were taken away from the town because people were worried about aftershocks.
5. The police chief promised to find the criminals.
6. The police chief asked the public to give them any information they had.
7. Today the town stops to remember those who died.
8. Don't fly kites in the city centre – find somewhere where there are no buildings.

## Answers 答案

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

1. China has not been flying flags during its period of mourning. **False**
2. One woman was rescued after being buried for over a week. **True**
4. Relief workers are beginning to focus on rescuing those still trapped. **False**
3. On Monday many people slept outside because they were worried about a possible aftershock. **True**
5. Wen Jiabao has promised to send a million temporary housing units by the end of August. **False**

### 3. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 2 动词, 名词和形容词 2

1. He keeps asking me to join his company. I've said 'no' but he's very **persistent**.
2. Her husband died last month and she still hasn't returned to work. She's still in **mourning**.
3. Have you seen Chris's new phone? You can watch TV on it – it's really **amazing**!
4. Their boss decided to **suspend** the scheme while the complaints were investigated.
5. Bad weather **hampered** the rescue operation.
6. After a member of the royal family dies, flags in the UK are flown at **half-mast**.

### 2. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 1 动词, 名词和形容词 1

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
to suspend	half-mast	persistent
to hamper	mourning	amazing
	aftershock	
	catastrophe	
	Richter scale	

### Writing Activity

**Note that your sentence structure might vary slightly, but you should have the right word.**  
句子结构可以改变, 但是选用的词汇或短语必须与以下答案相符。

1. Bad weather **hampered** the rescue.
2. They brought in bulldozers to clear the **rubble**.
3. She heard about the **catastrophe** on the radio.
4. They were **evacuated** from the town because people were worried about aftershocks.
5. The police chief **pledged** to find the criminals.
6. The police chief **appealed to the public for information**.
7. Today the town **is in mourning** for those who died.
8. Don't fly kites in the city centre – find **some open ground**.