

LISTENING – Floods in Malaga

Listen to Jacqui Ross, the owner of “Last Chance Animal Rescue” in Malaga, in an interview on the BBC Radio-4 programme *Today*. Take notes and discuss your answers with a partner.



0. *Example:* What's happened to roads and rail traffic in Malaga?

It has been disrupted

1. How are things right now in Malaga?

2. Was the situation in Malaga similar to Valencia two weeks ago?

3. What does the red alert mean?

4. What did she tell the emergency service when she talked to them on the phone?

In the second part, you can listen to a climate scientist, Professor Simon Lewis from University College London. Take notes and discuss your answers with a partner.



1. Was he surprised by what happened in Valencia?

2. Why are there more extreme weather events?

3. Can the floods change people's perceptions about climate change?

DISCUSSION

After doing the listening comprehension task, you can discuss these questions in pairs:

- What's your opinion about Jacqui Ross's refusal to leave the animal shelter? Do you understand her? Would you do the same?
- Do you know what to do when there is a red alert from the weather forecast?
- What can we, as individuals, learn from the floods in Valencia and Malaga?
- What can governments, politicians learn from the floods in Spain?
- Which corporations, lobbies or countries can benefit from stricter environmental protection laws, and which companies can increase their profits with less strict environmental regulation?
- How do you feel about climate change?
- What are the major threats that climate change poses to us right now? And in the future?
- How serious is that problem compared to other social concerns like housing, jobs, inflation, wars, epidemics etc?



ANSWER KEY (1): Jacqui Ross

- 1) heavy rain, it's really coming down, it's frightening
- 2) Yes, just like that, heavy rains. We went to buy wellington boots, we got a phone call to get back quick, luckily the vehicle survived, there was a small tsunami from the river across our land and took everything we have
- 3) The red alert came on everyone's phone, and in specific areas, we were asked to contact the emergency services
- 4) I can't leave, I can't leave 80 dogs and 20 cats without no one to get them out.

ANSWER KEY (2): Simon Lewis

- 1) It was an awful catastrophe, but it was not surprising, we have record fossil fuel emissions, record temperatures, we are going to see more frequent extreme weather events
- 2) Warmer air holds more moisture, and we have bigger downpours. In Valencia we saw 1 year's rainfall in just 8 hours. In the bigger picture, all the places where we live are built to withstand certain climate & environmental conditions, but we are pushing the climate outside their tolerance so, we have awful disasters like the ones in Valencia
- 3) I hope so, but I'm not sure, the heatwave in Europe in 2003 caused 50,000 deaths, but it didn't put us on a new path. For this crisis, if there is a long, harsh political backlash, politicians outside Spain will think this is important to get a grip on this.