

LISTENING – Floods in Valencia

Listen to a BBC Radio-4 report and an interview with Paco Pola, a volunteer and journalist for the programme *Today*. As you listen, complete the blanks in the sentences below with ONE or TWO words. 0 is the example.



0. *Example:*

Through the window, a survivor can see cars floating in the street. It is surreal.

1. The water rose as high as the _____ in their flats & houses.
2. Bethany Bell describes the scene in Aldaya and the cars _____ against one other.
3. José Ramón says that they feel abandoned, and they don't see _____, civil defence or _____ cleaning. There is no solidarity.
4. Officials say they don't know how many people are _____.
5. Paco Pola says that the roads are still _____.
6. Yesterday, he saw thousands of volunteers walking to the South of Valencia to bring _____ water, basic needs items, _____ and so on.
6. Paco Pola explains that the prevention reports from the weather forecasts were given _____ or _____ days before the floods.

DISCUSSION

After doing the listening comprehension task, you can discuss these questions with your partner:

- How many types of natural disasters can you name? Which is the worst? Which are most common in your region?
- Think of three natural disasters. What can you do to stay safe during and after those natural disasters?
- How can technology lessen the damage caused by natural disasters? What can governments do to reduce the harm?
- Do you think natural disasters are happening more frequently in the world today?
- Would you ever volunteer to help after a natural disaster hit? If yes, what would you like to volunteer to do? If no, why not?
- Have you ever been under extreme weather conditions (heavy rain, a thunderstorm, a heatwave, a cold spell, a hurricane etc.)? How did you protect yourself? Did you feel scared?



ANSWER KEY

- 1) balconies 2) piled up 3) the army/ machines 4) missing 5) blocked 6) bottled/ food 7) five / six