

# MAKING NEW WORDS YOUR OWN

## Lesson 3

### CONTEXT: Amazing Nature

#### *Earthquakes: Rocking and Rolling*

Imagine that you are sitting on the couch reading a book when the ground begins to tremble. You hold your breath until the shaking stops. You have just experienced an earthquake! An earthquake occurs when pressure builds underground, often along a fault where two large pieces of rock meet. The rock shifts or breaks to relieve the pressure. Not all earthquakes can be felt above ground. Sometimes the only way scientists know there has been an earthquake is if they record it on a special machine called a *seismograph*.

In the following exercises, you will have the opportunity to expand your vocabulary by reading about earthquakes. These ten Vocabulary Words will be used.

collapse      complex      fatal      incident      predict  
 collide      disastrous      foundation      nuisance      rash

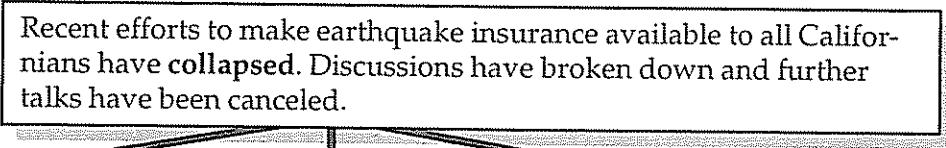
#### EXERCISE 1

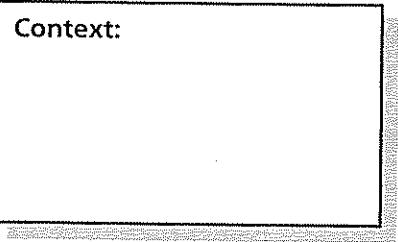
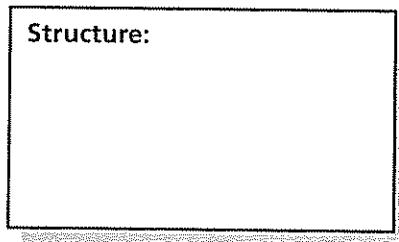
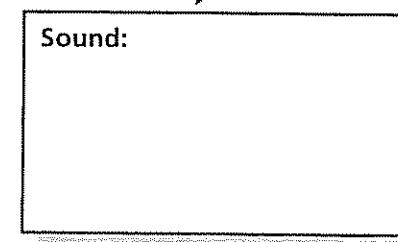
#### *Wordbusting*

**Directions.** Follow these instructions for this word and the nine words on the next page.

- Figure out the word's meaning by looking at its **context**, its **structure**, and its **sound**. Fill in at least one of the three CSS boxes. Alternate which boxes you complete.
- Then, look up the word in a dictionary, read all of its meanings, and write the meaning of the word as it is used in the sentence.
- Follow this same process for each of the Vocabulary Words on the next page. You will need to draw your own map for each word. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1.

**collapse**  

**Context:**  **Structure:**  **Sound:** 

**Dictionary:** 

2.

**collide**

Tsunamis are tidal waves caused by earthquakes. Great walls of water, sometimes two hundred feet high, **collide** with the shore at incredible speeds.

3.

**complex**

Before an earthquake, a **complex** series of events happens under the earth. The only sign of all this complicated activity, however, may be a slight tremor.

4.

**disastrous**

San Francisco has been the site of two **disastrous** earthquakes—in 1906 and 1989. Both earthquakes caused great damage.

5.

**fatal**

Earthquakes can be **fatal**. More than 230,000 people died in 1976 in a quake in northern China; in 1988, an earthquake killed 25,000 people in Armenia.

6.

**foundation**

The **foundation** of the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco is designed to be earthquake-proof. When the earth shakes, the base of the building rolls back and forth.

7.

**incident**

Sometimes earthquakes cause changes in the level of the earth's surface. A major shock hit Alaska in 1899. After this **incident**, some parts of the sea floor were fifty feet higher.

8.

**nuisance**

Planning ahead for earthquakes can seem like a bother. Still, in spite of the **nuisance**, it is wise to think ahead.

9.

**predict**

Some people believe that weather and animal behavior can help **predict** earthquakes and can warn people when the earthquakes might happen.

10.

**rash**

Any region that has had earthquakes in the past may expect them in the future, and people who live in these places should not be **rash**. To disregard the danger of earthquakes would be careless behavior indeed.

**EXERCISE 2** *Context Clues* 

**Directions.** Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match the definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

**COLUMN A**

11. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*adj.* acting in a hasty or reckless manner;  
*n.* spots that erupt on the skin;  
 a large number of instances that occur suddenly

12. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*n.* the base on which something is built;  
 an establishment or fund; basis

13. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*adj.* seriously harmful; damaging

14. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*n.* something or somebody causing annoyance or inconvenience

15. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*v.* to crash; to come together with a violent impact; to come into conflict

16. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*v.* to foretell an event or events

17. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*n.* something that happens; an event

18. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*v.* to fall down or apart; to break down suddenly; *n.* the act of falling down

19. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*adj.* destructive; resulting in death; decisive; having to do with fate

20. word: \_\_\_\_\_  
*adj.* complicated; difficult; *n.* a group of related buildings; a group of feelings that influence a person's behavior

**COLUMN B**

(A) After the Mexico City earthquake of 1985, a **special foundation**, or organization, was set up to help the survivors.

(B) The earth **experiences** about fifty thousand earthquakes each year. Luckily, however, a **disastrous** earthquake only occurs about once every two years. The others do little damage.

(C) Most quakes are light shocks. They might be a **nuisance**, but they do not cause serious harm.

(D) Computers help scientists **predict** earthquakes. However, it is still hard to know for certain where and when an earthquake will strike.

(E) An earthquake may be occurring nearby at this very moment, but it may be so slight that you are unaware of the **incident**.

(F) Earthquakes usually do not harm people directly. The injuries are caused when objects **collide** or smash into each other or when buildings fall down or catch fire.

(G) One of the earliest recorded **fatal** earthquakes took place in Corinth, Greece, in A.D. 856. About forty-five thousand people were killed.

(H) After a severe earthquake, damage can be **extensive**. An entire apartment **complex**, for example, can be destroyed. It is shocking to see a set of buildings become a pile of **rubble**.

(I) Many one- and two-story buildings **survive** serious earthquakes. They usually do not **collapse** unless their roofs are too heavy.

(J) After an earthquake, goods are left exposed, and sometimes, a **rash** of burglaries occurs. This sudden increase in crime is usually temporary.

**EXERCISE 3***Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings* 

**Directions.** For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

**21.** to collide with great force  
 (A) bend  
 (B) divide  
 (C) rise  
 (D) crash

**22.** a foundation of self-respect  
 (A) basis  
 (B) high expectation  
 (C) definition  
 (D) certain kind

**23.** an earthshaking incident  
 (A) party  
 (B) event  
 (C) story  
 (D) visit

**24.** an inferiority complex  
 (A) deep wishes  
 (B) interesting diagnosis  
 (C) set of feelings  
 (D) serious problem

**25.** to predict an earthquake  
 (A) analyze  
 (B) live through  
 (C) describe  
 (D) foretell

**Directions.** For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

**26.** the collapse of homes  
 (A) expansion  
 (B) building  
 (C) selling  
 (D) painting

**27.** a disastrous tidal wave  
 (A) helpful  
 (B) harmful  
 (C) surprising  
 (D) enormous

**28.** a fatal event  
 (A) important  
 (B) boring  
 (C) free-for-all  
 (D) life-giving

**29.** a great nuisance  
 (A) annoyance  
 (B) explanation  
 (C) belief  
 (D) help

**30.** a rash decision  
 (A) thoughtful  
 (B) thoughtless  
 (C) similar  
 (D) ignorant