

60 Global problems

A Natural disasters

There was a **hurricane** / **snowstorm** / **forest fire** there last year.

hurricane = when there is a very strong wind

snowstorm = when there is a lot of snow and wind at the same time

forest fire = when it is very dry and trees catch fire



San Francisco has had a lot of **earthquakes**. (= when the earth moves)

The river often **floods** after heavy rain. (= when there is too much water)

B Man-made problems

There are too many people in some places. Cities are too **crowded**.

Many people are:

poor = they do not have enough money

hungry = they do not have enough food

homeless = they do not have a place to live

unemployed = they do not have a job

There is a lot of **pollution** in many cities. (= when the air, water or earth is dirty and bad for people, plants and animals)

The **air pollution** is very bad today.

The river is **polluted** and a lot of fish have died.

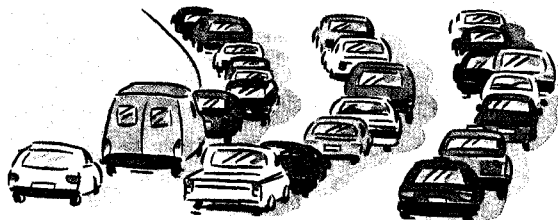
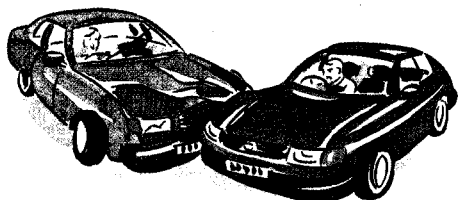
The American **War** of Independence lasted eight years. (= fighting between two or more countries or nationalities)

The **traffic jams** in the city are terrible in the **rush hour**. (= times when everyone is going to work)

He had a **car crash** on the way to work.

There's a teachers' **strike** today. (= when they will not work)

The bus drivers are **on strike**.



Exercises

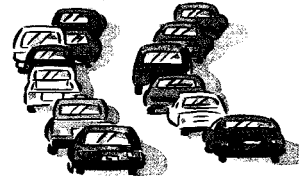
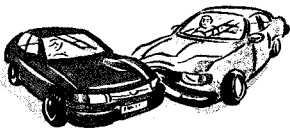
60.1 What problems can you see in the pictures?



1 *strike*

4

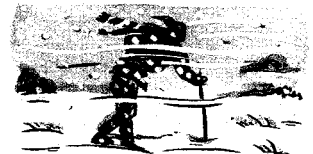
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9

60.2 Write down the natural disasters in A and the names of places they have happened.

hurricane - Florida

60.3 Write down all the problems in B that you have in your country and the places where you have them.

poor people - small villages

60.4 Put all the words on the opposite page into groups in any way that seems appropriate to you. You may use as many groups as you wish.

hurricane, snowstorm, flood - problems because of the weather

60.5 Fill the gaps with a word from the opposite page.

- 1 Cars make air *pollution* worse in towns.
- 2 Their wages were very low so the workers went on
- 3 My great-grandfather died in the First World
- 4 Jack had a last year but fortunately no-one was hurt.
- 5 Japan often has and Siberia often has
- 6 When people are, they sometimes have to sleep on the streets.

Tip: Try to listen to or watch the news in English every day.