

Lesson 176

Around the clock

1.	heavy rain/light rain		burst – wybuch, zryw		
blizzard	downpour	drizzle	hail	shower	sleet
zamieć śnieżna	ulewa	mżawka	grad	przelotny deszcz	śnieg z deszczem

1. Open the book. Match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1) downpour | a) short periods of rain which comes in bursts |
| 2) drizzle | b) a large amount of rain that falls quickly |
| 3) hail | c) storm with lots of snow and strong wind |
| 4) shower | d) very light rain |
| 5) thunderstorm | e) a mixture of snow and rain |
| 6) sleet | f) rain that freezes in the sky and falls on the ground as small balls of ice |
| 7) blizzard | g) a storm characterized by lightning and its acoustic effect known as thunder |

2. Close the book and try to give definitions for each of the words above.

3. Have you witnessed any of the weather conditions described above in the past few years? Share your story with the class.

2.	bullet	sled	slide	spread sand	steep
	kula	zjeżdżać na sankach	ślizgać się	sypać piaskiem	stromy
	thoroughfare – główna droga			traction – przyczepność	

Part 1 76.01► Unusually cold April weather brought thunderstorms, hail, and snow to the city of Oakland on Monday morning. As the spring storm moved through Northern California, the city was covered in a layer of hail.

Miguel Pereiro has lived on Redwood Road for 50 years but has never seen something as sudden and powerful as Monday's hailstorm. Redwood Road, a major thoroughfare of the city, was covered with hail within minutes. "It sounded like machine gun bullets hitting the house. This was unbelievable; the hail was pea-shaped. I had to take the dog for a walk, and I was sliding down the driveway," revealed Miguel.

The heavy hail started falling around 7:30 a.m. in the area surrounding Redwood Road. Public Works crews said this is the first time they've ever been called to clear hail and spread sand. When they arrived on Redwood Road, heavy hail covered the ground and shut down the steep roadway to Skyline High School. The hail on the steep hill made it impossible for the transit buses to make it.

Correct the information and answer the questions.

Unusually cold weather brought hail and snow to the city of San Diego.

Redwood Road was covered in a layer of snow.

Miguel was sliding down the driveway when he walked with his son.

Miguel described hail as coin-shaped.

*The flat road leading to the school was covered with hail.
The hail on the steep road to school made it impossible for pedestrians to walk.
It is the second time ever sand has been spread on the roads after the hail.*

Part 2 The crews helped students stuck at the bottom of the hill after their bus lost traction and started sliding down the hill. "It was scary at first because I didn't know if we had traction or not and we just kept sliding, but we stopped eventually," said Evan Tyler, a high school student.

Schools allowed students to arrive late because of the weather. Several accidents were reported as a result of the unusual weather. Hail broke the windshield of one car. Police requested drivers to slow down and be careful because the icy conditions were dangerous. They also added that residents should stay at home until the roads cleared up.

Despite all the problems created by the sudden burst of hail, many seem to enjoy such a rare weather event in the middle of April. Some residents tweeted pictures of kids sledding down the hail-covered street. One said it was scary, but fascinating, to see hail like this.

Correct the information and answer the questions.

The bus lost traction and started sliding up the road.

Police told drivers to wait at home until the next day.

Hail damaged the hood of a car.

Some residents tweeted pictures of kids skiing down the street.

Did you go sledding when you were a kid? What do you remember about it?

Have you ever lost traction while driving on an icy road? Talk about your experience.

3. SPEAKING

drought
susza

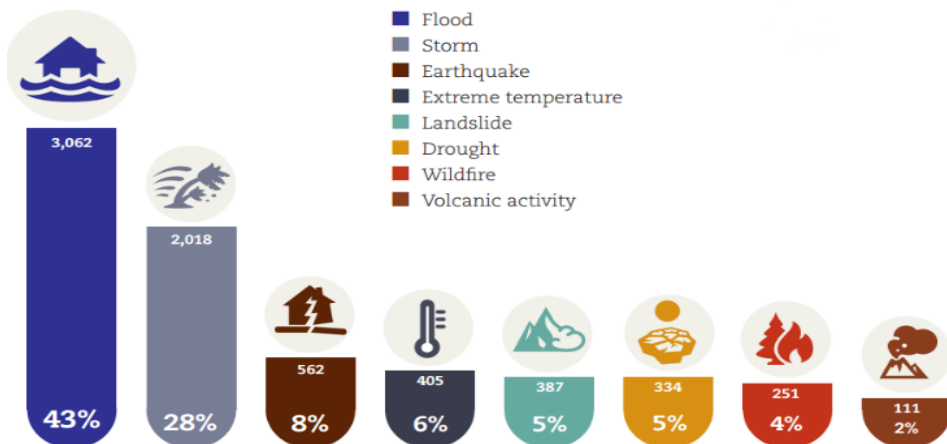
earthquake
trzęsienie ziemi

flood
powódź

landslide
osuwisko

wildfire
pożar lasu

Natural Disasters: How Common Are They?



Source: UN/CRED

1) Discuss each kind of natural disaster in the chart. What damage may they cause? Which of them have happened in your country or region in the past few years? What do you remember about the disaster?

4.	abandon opuścić	evacuate ewakuować	a fire pożar	put out gasić	wheelchair wózek inwalidzki
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Listen to a story about a wildfire in California. Find answers to the following questions.

How many fires were burning at the same time?

How many homes burnt? How many businesses were destroyed?

How many people were warned to abandon their homes?

What facilities were evacuated?

How many buses drove patients to a safe location?

Fires destroy hundreds of homes. Wildfires blown by desert winds on Monday forced hundreds of thousands of people to abandon their houses in the southern part of California. About 14 fires were burning at the same time. At least one person was killed, and several were injured. About 650 homes were burned, and 168 businesses and other structures were destroyed. Firefighters were doing everything they could to put out the fires while people were being evacuated, but hot, dry conditions made their efforts difficult, and the fire continued to spread. More than 250,000 residents were warned to abandon their homes in San Diego County alone. A nursing home and patients from two hospitals had to be evacuated; some of them were in wheelchairs. Those patients were driven to a safe location by eight school buses.

5.	evacuation ewakuacja	fire truck wóz strażacki	fracture złamanie	massive ogromny	pile stos	spray skropić
statement – oświadczenie						

76.02► “It looked like the end of the world,” said Mitch Mendler, a San Diego firefighter. He and his crew stopped at a shopping center parking lot to refill their water truck from a hydrant. Asked how many homes had burned, he said, “I lost count.” The fire is so massive that more than 8,400 firefighters are working around the clock to save lives. It has turned neighborhoods into piles of concrete as it spreads through the area. One firefighter was injured. He was taken to a Santa Barbara hospital, where doctors treated a fracture to his lower leg. The fire department released a statement in which they said, “Our firefighter is in good spirits and is returning home.”

Tom Sollie, a 49-year-old resident of Rancho Bernardo, a neighborhood in San Diego, ignored evacuation orders to help his neighbors spray roofs with water. His home was untouched, but he watched a neighbor’s house burn down. “If we weren’t here, the whole neighborhood would burn down. There just aren’t enough fire trucks around,” Sollie said. Losses could total \$1 billion.

No one can say when conditions will return to normal. But today, temperatures have fallen, and winds have weakened. Although fires continued burning, several had been brought under control. Everyone is hoping the temperature won’t rise in the days to come.

Correct the information.

Firefighters are working from morning till afternoon to put out the fire.

The firefighter has a fractured arm and is depressed.

The statement concerning the firefighter was released by the police department.

Tom watched his house burn down. He helped his neighbors evacuate.

Losses could total one million dollars.

The temperature is rising, the wind is getting stronger.

Fires continue to burn and all of them are out of control.

6. SPEAKING

heat – upał

cause harm – powodować szkody

widespread – rozległe

Work in pairs.

1) Talk about seasons in your country. Tell your partner what you like about each season, which months are your favorite, and why. Then talk about what you dislike about each season and why. Try to give a detailed description of each season's weather. If possible, include the following words: heat, blizzard, freezing cold weather, rainfall, snow, and wind.

2) Talk about a natural disaster that you recently heard of or one that happened in the area where you live. Talk about what harm it caused and how widespread it was—say everything you remember about it.

7. **abnormal**
nienormalny

crops
uprawy

fair
przeciętny

moisture
wilgoć

resilient
elastyczny, wytrzymały

76.03► Drought in Kansas If there is no rain this weekend, it will be the driest winter in Kansas since the weather service began tracking the conditions in 1874. Farmers are starting to see the effect on their crops. "There's no moisture here," said farmer Vince McGrath inspecting his wheat, "and it's a miracle that that plant is alive." He planted some crops right before heavy rains at the end of September. What he thought was good timing turned out to cause more harm than good. "We've got good root development, but with no rain or no snow, the roots have just totally dried out this soil." Vince is not alone with his problem. According to recent data, only 10 percent of Kansas wheat is in good or excellent condition. The other 90 percent is rated fair or worse. The abnormal dryness will likely result in the smallest harvest since 1989, which means the wheat price will rise experts believe. "Honest to God, I don't think I've ever seen anything as widespread and as bad as it is right now," said McGrath. On the other hand, he believes that even a small amount of rain might save the crop. "Wheat is resilient. Even an inch of rain would make a huge difference. There's no question about it," he adds. However, if conditions stay the same, he might not get anything from his crops. "The crop will be a disaster if the weather does not change soon," he said.

Correct the information.

It might be the driest winter in Kansas since the beginning of the century.

Vince planted his crops just before the drought in September.

The roots of the wheat aren't well-developed, but they haven't dried out the soil yet.

Wheat is resilient, and Vince believes only a large amount of rain will save the crops.

The conditions may result in the best harvest since 1989.

The wheat price will likely fall.