

# Typhoons in Taiwan

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level F | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)



Typhoons are powerful tropical storms that hit Taiwan several times every year, usually between May and November. These massive storms form over the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean and move westward toward the island.

Typhoons can bring wind speeds over two hundred kilometers per hour and dump enormous amounts of rain. Taiwan's location makes it one of the most **vulnerable** places in the world for these dangerous storms. On average, three to four typhoons directly impact the island each year, though some years bring many more.

When a typhoon **approaches**, the Taiwan government issues warnings to help people prepare for the storm. Schools and businesses may close on **designated** typhoon days so people can stay safely indoors. The Central Weather Bureau tracks storms using **satellites** and radar technology to predict their path. Television and radio stations broadcast **constant** updates about the storm's location and strength. People are advised to stock up on food, water, and **emergency** supplies before the typhoon arrives.

The dangers from typhoons come from both powerful winds and heavy flooding. Strong winds can knock down trees, damage buildings, and send objects flying through the air. The **torrential** rain often causes rivers to overflow and creates dangerous mudslides in mountain areas. Coastal areas face threats from storm surges, when the sea level rises dramatically. Every year, typhoons cause millions of dollars in **destruction** to homes, farms, and infrastructure across Taiwan.

Taiwan has developed excellent systems for **responding** to typhoon disasters over the years. Rescue teams are trained and ready to help people trapped by floods or landslides. The military often helps with evacuations and **relief** efforts in affected areas. Shelters open in schools and community centers for people who need a safe place to stay. Engineers constantly work to improve drainage systems and strengthen buildings against future storms.

Despite the dangers, some people appreciate what typhoons bring to Taiwan. The heavy rains fill reservoirs that provide drinking water during dry periods. Some farmers say the storms help clean out old growth and refresh the soil. Typhoon days also give workers and students unexpected time off to rest at home. However, everyone agrees that safety must always come first when these powerful storms approach the island.

## A. Vocabulary

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. vulnerable _____  | a. happening all the time                 |
| 2. approaches _____  | b. comes closer to something              |
| 3. designated _____  | c. easily hurt or damaged                 |
| 4. satellites _____  | d. reacting or answering to something     |
| 5. constant _____    | e. a sudden dangerous situation           |
| 6. emergency _____   | f. officially chosen or appointed         |
| 7. torrential _____  | g. objects orbiting Earth for observation |
| 8. destruction _____ | h. falling in large amounts rapidly       |
| 9. responding _____  | i. help given in difficult times          |
| 10. relief _____     | j. the act of destroying something        |

## B. True or False

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|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Typhoons usually hit Taiwan in winter months. _____ | 2. Wind speeds can exceed 200 km per hour. _____ | 3. Schools may close on typhoon days. _____ |
| 4. Taiwan gets about 3-4 typhoons per year. _____      | 5. Typhoons form over cold ocean water. _____    | 6. Storm surges raise the sea level. _____  |
| 7. The military helps with evacuations. _____          | 8. Typhoons never bring any benefits. _____      | 9. Radar is used to track typhoons. _____   |

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** vulnerable, approaches, designated, satellites, torrential, destruction, relief

- Taiwan is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ places for dangerous typhoon storms.
- When a typhoon \_\_\_\_\_, the government issues warnings to the public.
- Schools and businesses close on \_\_\_\_\_ typhoon days.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ rain often causes rivers to overflow and flood.
- Rescue teams provide \_\_\_\_\_ efforts in areas affected by storms.

## D. Comprehension Questions

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- During which months do typhoons usually hit Taiwan?
- How do officials track typhoons before they arrive?
- What are two dangers that typhoons bring besides strong winds?
- What happens on designated typhoon days in Taiwan?
- What is one positive thing that typhoons bring to Taiwan?

## E. Discussion Questions

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- Has your area ever experienced a major storm? What was it like?
- What would you do to prepare if a typhoon was coming?
- Why is it important for governments to have emergency response systems?

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## Answer Key

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-c, 2-b, 3-f, 4-g, 5-a, 6-e, 7-h, 8-j, 9-d, 10-i

**B. True/False:** 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-vulnerable, 2-approaches, 3-designated, 4-torrential, 5-relief

**D. Comprehension:** 1. Between May and November; 2. Using satellites and radar technology; 3. Heavy flooding and mudslides (or storm surges); 4. Schools and businesses may close; 5. The rain fills reservoirs for drinking water