



Typhoon Season in Taiwan

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

Each year between June and October, Taiwan enters its notorious typhoon season, a period that profoundly shapes daily life on the island. These powerful tropical cyclones originate over the warm waters of the western Pacific and frequently make landfall along Taiwan's eastern coastline, where the steep Central Mountain Range often **intensifies** rainfall before weakening the storm's core. Meteorologists at the Central Weather Administration monitor developing systems closely, issuing warnings days in advance so that citizens have ample time to prepare.

The consequences of a major typhoon can be severe. Sustained winds exceeding 200 kilometers per hour have been known to topple billboards, uproot mature trees, and damage poorly constructed buildings. Torrential rainfall frequently triggers landslides in mountainous regions and causes flash floods in low-lying urban districts, **disrupting** transportation networks for days at a time.

Despite these hazards, Taiwanese society has developed a remarkable capacity for **resilience**. Schools and offices close when local governments issue an official typhoon day, allowing families to remain safely indoors. Convenience stores stockpile bottled water, instant noodles, and batteries, while residents reinforce windows with adhesive tape as a **precaution** against shattering glass.

Typhoons also play a paradoxical yet vital role in Taiwan's ecology and economy. The island depends heavily on these storms to replenish reservoirs that supply drinking water and irrigate agricultural land throughout the dry winter months. Without sufficient typhoon rainfall, droughts can severely affect rice cultivation and semiconductor manufacturing, two pillars of the national economy.

In recent years, climate scientists have observed troubling shifts in storm behavior. Typhoons appear to be intensifying more rapidly and lingering closer to coastlines, phenomena widely **attributed** to rising sea-surface temperatures. Government agencies have therefore expanded early-warning infrastructure and revised building codes accordingly. For students of English, understanding typhoon season offers valuable insight into how geography, culture, and climate intersect to shape life on this dynamic subtropical island.

A. Vocabulary

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| 1. notorious | _____ | a. seeming contradictory or absurd but possibly true |
| 2. intensifies | _____ | b. action taken in advance to prevent harm or trouble |
| 3. disrupting | _____ | c. regarded as caused by or belonging to a specific source |
| 4. resilience | _____ | d. widely known for something bad or unpleasant |
| 5. precaution | _____ | e. becomes stronger, more severe, or more extreme |
| 6. replenish | _____ | f. interrupting normal activity or causing disorder |
| 7. attributed | _____ | g. ability to recover quickly from difficulty or hardship |
| 8. torrential | _____ | h. fill up or restore something to its former level |
| 9. paradoxical | _____ | i. falling rapidly and in copious quantities, especially rain |
| 10. subtropical | _____ | j. relating to regions bordering the tropics with mild winters |

B. True or False

- ___ 1. Taiwan's typhoon season typically runs from June through October.
- ___ 2. Typhoons usually form over the cold waters of the northern Atlantic.
- ___ 3. The Central Mountain Range often weakens a typhoon's core after landfall.
- ___ 4. Schools in Taiwan remain open during officially declared typhoon days.
- ___ 5. Typhoon rainfall helps refill reservoirs used for drinking water and agriculture.
- ___ 6. The Central Weather Administration provides almost no advance warning of storms.
- ___ 7. Residents sometimes reinforce windows with adhesive tape before a typhoon arrives.
- ___ 8. Droughts caused by missing typhoons can hurt rice and semiconductor industries.
- ___ 9. Recent typhoons appear to be weakening and forming farther from coastlines.
- ___ 10. Convenience stores typically stockpile bottled water, instant noodles, and batteries.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: notorious, intensifies, resilience, precaution, replenish, torrential, paradoxical, attributed

1. Taiwan is _____ for its powerful summer typhoons that sweep in from the Pacific.
2. As warm ocean water feeds the storm, the wind speed steadily _____.
3. Families taped their windows as a sensible _____ against flying debris.
4. Heavy seasonal storms help _____ reservoirs that supply the cities all winter.
5. Stronger storms are widely _____ to rising sea-surface temperatures.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. Why does the Central Mountain Range play a significant role in how typhoons affect Taiwan?
2. In what way are typhoons paradoxically beneficial to Taiwan's economy?
3. What recent changes in typhoon behavior have scientists observed, and what is the suspected cause?

E. Discussion Questions

1. How does your home country prepare for major natural disasters, and how does that compare to Taiwan's approach to typhoons?
2. Should governments invest more in early-warning systems or in stronger infrastructure to handle increasingly powerful storms? Why?



Answer Key

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

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-notorious, 2-intensifies, 3-precaution, 4-replenish, 5-attributed

D. Comprehension:

1. The range intensifies rainfall as storms make landfall on the eastern coast and then weakens the typhoon's core as it crosses the island.
2. Although they cause damage, typhoons replenish reservoirs needed for drinking water, agriculture, and water-intensive semiconductor manufacturing.
3. Scientists have noticed typhoons intensifying more rapidly and lingering near coastlines, changes attributed to rising sea-surface temperatures.

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