

LESSON

1

「地震だ！」

Objectives

- Get used to terms related to earthquakes
- Learn expressions that help non-Japanese speakers stay calm and take appropriate actions during and after an earthquake.
- Learn how to support them and understand their perspective

Words and Phrases

<input type="checkbox"/>	緊急地震速報	earthquake early warning (EEW)
<input type="checkbox"/>	強い揺れに警戒してください	Watch out for strong tremors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	震度（3弱、4強など）	seismic intensity (lower 3, upper 4)
<input type="checkbox"/>	マグニチュード	magnitude
<input type="checkbox"/>	震央	epicenter
<input type="checkbox"/>	活断層	active fault
<input type="checkbox"/>	余震	aftershock
<input type="checkbox"/>	ガスの元栓を閉める	shut off a gas valve
<input type="checkbox"/>	電気のブレーカーを切る	turn off the (circuit) breaker
<input type="checkbox"/>	避難所	shelter
<input type="checkbox"/>	注意報	advisory
<input type="checkbox"/>	警報	warning
<input type="checkbox"/>	特別警報	emergency warning
<input type="checkbox"/>	訓練	drill
<input type="checkbox"/>	危険（を引き起こすもの）	hazard
<input type="checkbox"/>	備える	be prepared

（参考）

気象庁・内閣府・観光庁「緊急地震速報の多言語辞書」（2015年 6月3日）
http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/press/1510/29a/tagengo20151029_dictionary.pdf

Let's practice! 実践してみよう!そのとき何が!?

- What would you do when an earthquake strikes?
- What do you think a foreigner will find difficult in an earthquake?
- How would you respond?

登場人物



Emily

Emily just came to Japan as an English teacher. Today, she went to a large shopping mall with her colleagues. She is now shopping on her own until she meets up with her coworkers again in half an hour.

1

Emily “I’m done shopping. I guess I’ll just look around until it’s time...”

《She hears an unusual noise coming from the people around her. They are taking out their phones to check something. Soon, her phone starts ringing the same way but the screen shows text in kanji only!》

Emily “What is that? Is something wrong?” She looks around but cannot figure out what is going on.

[The screen says “緊急地震速報 「強い揺れに警戒してください」 ” How would you help her?]

2

《The tremors start and are getting stronger. Emily can’t even stand still. Things are about to fall off pharmacy shelves. Mannequins are shaking, too.》

Emily “Oh, my god. Someone help me!” (in a panic)

[What would you tell Emily and how? How would you guide her?]

3

《The tremors have calmed down. She was not injured but is surrounded by shattered glass and fallen objects. The store is telling everybody to go to the parking lot outside on the ground level. A news site on the smartphone says there was an intensity of 6 and there seem to be serious damage elsewhere.》

Emily “What should I do? What happened? Where is everyone?” (she’s about to cry.)

[How would you explain the situation to Emily?]

[Emily is worried about her colleagues. What do you tell her to guide her to the parking lot?]

What would you do? こんなときどうする？

- ① You are passing somewhere near Hanamaki on the Tohoku Shinkansen and a strong earthquake hit the area. The shinkansen stopped and doesn’t seem to move. A foreign passenger is confused and doesn’t know what is going on. The epicenter was in Niigata where the intensity was an upper 5. The safety announcement was made in Japanese saying that the Shinkansen will remain stopped until it is completely safe to go.
- ② A strong earthquake with an intensity of 6 was felt in Miyagi Prefecture as well. A young foreign backpacker who you came across is telling you that the earthquake was reported overseas and he wants to tell his parents back home that he is okay. He doesn’t have any calling, roaming, or data plan in Japan.
- ③ A elderly Australian couple is stuck at Morioka Station after a strong earthquake. They were planning to reach Tokyo today but now don’t know when the train will be back up and running. And they need to fly out of Haneda Airport on an early evening flight the next day. Maybe they can make it there on a overnight bus.
- ④ You’re at a friend’s house when a strong earthquake is felt. Your friend doesn’t speak Japanese. She was boiling water on a stove and there is a sleeping newborn in the next room. The cupboards are shaking violently.
- ⑤ At an international rugby match in Kamaishi, you hear eerie chimes from a public speaker. Foreign spectators can tell that it was some kind of warning but the announcement was all in Japanese: “震度4の地震が発生しました。火の始末をしてください。テレビ・ラジオをつけ、落ち着いて行動してください。”

知っておきたい！

注意報・警報・緊急地震速報・津波警報

Do you know the difference between advisory, warning, and emergency warning?

(参考) 気象庁ホームページ

◆ 気象警報・注意報

注 意 報

災害が起こるおそれのあるとき



大雨、洪水、強風、風雪、大雪、波浪、高潮、雷、融雪、濃霧、乾燥、なだれ、低温、霜、着氷、着雪

警 報

重大な災害が起こるおそれのあるとき



大雨（土砂災害、浸水害）、洪水、暴風、暴風雪、大雪、波浪、高潮

特 別 警 報

重大な災害の起こるおそれが著しく高まっているとき

大雨（土砂災害、浸水害）、暴風、暴風雪、大雪、波浪、高潮

◆ 緊急地震速報

地震の発生直後に、各地での強い揺れの到達時刻や震度を予想し、可能な限り素早く知らせる情報

◆ 噴火警報 噴火予報

火山の噴火による重大な災害が起こる恐れがあるとき

◆ 大津波警報 津波警報 津波注意報

津波が予想されるとき

Useful links

“HSU: What to Do When Disaster Strikes,” San Francisco Police Department
<http://sanfranciscopolice.org/hsu-what-do-when-disaster-strikes>

ドコモの緊急地震速報多言語表示
https://www.nttdocomo.co.jp/service/areamail/earthquake_warning/

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Examples

Let's practice! 実践してみよう! そのとき何が!?

1

Situation 1: Emergency Earthquake Warning on the smartphone

Emily: What is that? Is something wrong?
You: Hi, there might be an earthquake here. It was an emergency warning.
Emily: Oh no. What should I do?
You: Let's get out of here. Come with me.

2

Situation 2: In the meantime, everything starts shaking (pharmacy)

Emily: Oh, my god. Someone help me!
You: Okay, we need to move. Stay away from the shelves or glass. Come with me.
Emily: Thanks.
You: Let's go to that corner.

3

Situation 3: The shaking has calmed down and you need to explain the situation to Emily and help her evacuate.

Emily: What should I do? What happened? Where is everyone?
You: Okay. You were with your colleagues. You should be able to see them in the parking lot. Let's go.
Emily: Why the parking lot?
You: That's where we should evacuate to. It was a rather serious earthquake. Let's stay tuned and decide what to do next.