



1

Hurricane Irma



Pre-viewing Activities

Search the Internet for answers to the questions below. It will help you understand the videos and audios in this unit better.

How did Hurricane Irma in 2017 form? How powerful was it? What damage did it cause to the Caribbean and the United States? What did the people do to deal with it?



Words & Expressions

Video 01

Irma	/ˈəːmə/		艾玛 (飓风名称)
Barbuda	/bɑːˈbuːdə/		an island of the Leeward group in the West Indies 巴布达岛
Turks and Caicos Islands			British overseas territory in the Caribbean Sea that is composed of two island groups between Haiti and the Bahamas 特克斯和凯科斯群岛
Miami	/maɪˈæmi/		a city and port in southeastern Florida 迈阿密
coastal	/ˈkəʊstəl/	adj.	of or near a coast 沿海的, 海岸的
Rohingya	/ˈrəʊ(h)ɪndʒə/	n.	a member of a Muslim people inhabiting western Myanmar 罗兴亚族
refugee	/ˌrefjuːˈdʒiː/	n.	a person who has been forced to leave their country or home, because there is a war or for political, religious or social reasons 难民
Pope Francis			教皇方济各
Colombian	/kəˈlɒmbiən/	n. & adj.	(a person) from Colombia 哥伦比亚人; 哥伦比亚的
vengeance	/ˈvendʒəns/	n.	the act of punishing or harming somebody in return for what they have done to you, your family or friends 报仇, 复仇
FARC	/fɑːk/	abbr.	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) (反对哥伦比亚政府的) 哥伦比亚革命武装力量
Colombia	/kəˈlɒmbiə/		a country in South America 哥伦比亚

Video 02

swathe /sweɪð/	<i>n.</i>	a large strip or area of something 一长条; 一长片
Virgin Islands		a group of Caribbean islands at the eastern end of the Greater Antilles, divided between the US and British administration 维尔京群岛
Anguilla /æŋ'gwɪlə/		an island of the Leeward group in the West Indies 安圭拉岛
Red Cross		an international organization that takes care of people suffering because of war or natural disasters 红十字会
torrential /tə'renʃəl/	<i>adj.</i>	(of rain) falling in large amounts (雨水) 倾盆的
Mexico City		the capital of Mexico 墨西哥城
Interior Ministry		a government department that deals with the domestic or internal affairs of a country, esp. law and order 内政部
Chiapas /tʃɪ'ɑ:pɑ:s/		a state in southeastern Mexico 恰帕斯
come to terms (with)		to reach an agreement with somebody; to find a way of living or working together 达成协议; 谈好条件
Bogota /,bɒgə'tɑ:/		the capital of Colombia 波哥大

Video 03

storm-force /'stɔ:m,fɔ:s/	<i>adj.</i>	of or relating to force 10 or 11 on the Beaufort scale; (of winds) very strong, often causing damage 蒲福风级 10 到 11 级的; (风) 非常强的
storm surge		an occasion when a lot of water is pushed from the sea onto the land, usually caused by a hurricane 风暴潮, 飓风潮
coordinator /kəu'ɔ:dɪneɪtə/	<i>n.</i>	someone whose job is to make different groups work together in an organized way to achieve something 协调人, 统筹者
flatten /'flætən/	<i>v.</i>	to destroy a building or town by knocking it down, bombing it, etc. 夷平 (建筑物、城镇或植物)



Video 04

brace /breɪs/	v.	to prepare somebody/yourself for something difficult or unpleasant that is going to happen 准备（面对不愉快或困难之事）
inhabitant /ɪn'hæbɪtənt/	n.	one of the people who live in a particular place 居民；住户；常住居民
fortnight /'fɔːtnaɪt/	n.	two weeks 两周
Burmese /bə:'miːz/	n. & adj.	(a person) from Burma/Myanmar 缅甸人；缅甸的

Video 05

lash /læʃ/	v.	to hit somebody/something with great force 猛烈拍击；冲击
Cuban /'kjuːbən/	n. & adj.	(a person) from Cuba 古巴人；古巴的
amnesty /'æmnɪsti/	n.	an official order by a government that allows a particular group of prisoners to go free 赦免
landmine /'lændmaɪn/	n.	a bomb placed on or under the ground, which explodes when vehicles or people move over it 地雷
plant /plɑːnt/	v.	to hide something such as a bomb in a place where it will not be found 埋设（炸弹等）

Video 06

slam into		to hit or attack someone or something with a lot of force; crash into someone or something 猛击；重重撞上
St. Petersburg /seɪnt 'pɪtəz.bɜːg/		a city in western Florida 圣彼德斯堡
Tampa /'tæmpə/		a seaport in western Florida 坦帕市
curfew /'kɜːfjuː/	n.	a law that forces people to stay indoors after a particular time at night, or the time people must be indoors 宵禁
Naples /'neɪpəlz/		a city in southwestern Florida 那不勒斯

count the cost		to feel the bad effects of a mistake, an accident, etc. 感受到（错误、事故等带来的）负面影响
coastline /'kəʊstlaɪn/	n.	the land on the edge of the coast, especially the shape of this land as seen from the air 海岸线
Havana /hə'vænə/		the capital of Cuba 哈瓦那
canal /kə'næl/	n.	a long passage dug into the ground and filled with water, either for boats to travel along, or to take water to a place 运河；（引水灌溉用的）水渠，渠道
ceasefire /'si:sfaiə/	n.	an agreement to stop fighting for a period of time, especially so that a more permanent agreement can be made 停火，休战
militant /'mɪlɪtənt/	n.	a person engaged in warfare or combat 武装人员
Aung San Suu Kyi		昂山素季（缅甸联邦共和国国务资政）

Audio 02

Sheikh Hasina

谢赫·哈西娜（孟加拉国总理）



Warm-ups



Read the words and expressions of this unit first, and then fill in the blanks based on what you hear.

- Over 60,000 _____ are reported to have crossed the border into Turkey from northern Syria, fleeing from advancing Islamic State _____.
- The rescue _____ confirmed search efforts will continue to find the remaining missing people.
- The _____ government and the country's second largest rebel group, the ELN, have agreed to a temporary bilateral _____ for the first time.
- Hurricane Irma has left a _____ of destruction as it sweeps across the eastern Caribbean. It's already _____ Barbuda, where almost all of the buildings have been destroyed.

5. The skies are clear in South Carolina's capital, Columbia, this morning. Rescue teams are taking advantage of the break from _____ rain to search vehicles and homes that were flooded.
6. South Florida is _____ for what could be the worst hurricane it's seen in decades.
7. Pope Francis spent his first full day in _____ urging political leaders to avoid _____ following the country's decades-long civil war.
8. The 8.1-magnitude quake that struck off the coast of Chiapas on Thursday was stronger than a devastating 1985 quake that _____ parts of _____ and killed thousands.
9. Brazil is the world's fifth largest country, stretching out over 8.5 million square km. With some 200 million _____, it also ranks fifth in terms of population.
10. A week-long _____ has been announced in the US city of Baltimore after rioting erupted in protest at the death of a black man in police custody.
11. Residents in Florida are beginning to return to their homes as authorities assess the widespread _____ flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Irma.
12. Haiti, and the Turks and Caicos Islands are _____ by the storm which is one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes ever recorded.
13. In Iran today, the government has _____. Sunday's earthquake killed more than 400 people.
14. As we have driven here, we've seen village after village that's _____.
15. A major hurricane _____ western Mexico this afternoon. Hurricane Lane with winds of 125 miles an hour made landfall north of the resort community of Mazatlan.
16. Residents are now _____ in schools and temples as the search for survivors continues.
17. With yet more rain on the way Mexico has begun _____ the week's unprecedented rains from Tropical Storms Manuel.
18. Due to _____ winds, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection says the fire remains 70% contained.
19. Mine removal experts estimate that more than 120,000 _____ remain _____ across Bosnia.
20. The streets _____. There is no timetable for when communication or power will be restored.



Video Clips



01

20170908



Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

Hello, I'm Karin Giannone. This is BBC World News. The headlines.

At least (1)_____ are reported to have died as Hurricane Irma sweeps across the eastern Caribbean. The island of Barbuda was (2)_____. The storm system is now (3)_____ the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A state of emergency has been declared in (4)_____. Irma is forecast to reach the US (5)_____ late this weekend. Officials have ordered an (6)_____ of Miami's coastal areas.

The United Nations says nearly 164,000 Rohingya Muslims have now (7)_____ Myanmar. Many of the refugees were (8)_____ in Bangladesh. They accused Myanmar's armed forces of carrying out atrocities, something authorities deny.

And Pope Francis has called on Colombians to (9)_____ any thoughts of vengeance following the (10)_____ between the government and the FARC rebel group in Colombia. He's on the first full day of his trip there.



02

20170908



Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

This is BBC World News. Our headlines.

Hurricane Irma has (1)_____ as it sweeps across the eastern Caribbean. It's already (2)_____ on Barbuda. (3)_____ in the US and British Virgin Islands and also Anguilla. Haiti and the Turks and Caicos Islands are the (4)_____ by the storm. Cuba and Florida still (5)_____. The Red Cross estimates that up to 26 million people in total could be exposed to the destructive winds and (6)_____ brought by the storm.



A powerful earthquake (7)_____ has been felt as far away as Mexico City. The Interior Ministry says at least (8)_____ in the southern state of Chiapas. The quake (9)_____ making it the strongest since 1985.

Pope Francis has urged Colombians to (10)_____ as they come to terms with a peace deal signed last year with FARC rebels. He was speaking to huge crowds in Bogota on the first full day of his visit to the country.



03

20170910



Watch the video and complete the missing information based on what you hear. You can do it with the exact words you hear or in your own words.

This is BBC News, and these are the headlines.

(1)_____

_____ after causing floods and widespread damage. It's likely to be several more hours until storm-force winds subside on the western edge of the island. More than a million people have been moved to safety.

The hurricane is heading to the US state of Florida. The governor there says (2)_____

Water levels have already begun to rise. Forecasters estimate a storm surge of between 5 to 8 feet. More than 6 million people have been ordered to leave their homes.

And in Mexico recovery teams said (3)_____

_____. One rescue team coordinator said it was unlikely that any more survivors could be found. The 8.1-magnitude quake flattened thousands of buildings.

VIDEO 04



20170909

Watch the video and decide whether the statements below are true or false.

T F

1. While Irma is continuing to cause devastation across the Caribbean, a new hurricane will hit some islands. ☐ ☐
2. Florida's state governor has told all his residents to stay indoors as Hurricane Irma approaches. ☐ ☐
3. More than 60 people have died after the powerful earthquake struck on Thursday off the Pacific coast of Mexico. ☐ ☐
4. The United Nations says 250,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar over the last two weeks and up to 1,000 may have been killed by Burmese forces. ☐ ☐

VIDEO 05



20170910

Watch the video and answer the questions below.

1. What does the news report say about Hurricane Irma in Cuba?

2. What does the news report say about the Mexico earthquake?

3. What does Amnesty International say in the news about Rohingya Muslims?



VIDEO

06



20170911

Watch the video and complete the missing information based on what you hear. You can do it with the exact words you hear or in your own words.

This is BBC World News. I'm Geeta Guru-Murthy with the headlines.

Cuba is also counting the cost after Irma moved along its northern coastline causing flooding in Havana. Streets in the city now resemble canals. A million people were also forced to seek safety from waves several metres high.

The government of Myanmar seems to have dismissed a ceasefire declaration made by Muslim Rohingya militants. The spokesman for Aung San Suu Kyi said they don't talk to terrorists.

**More Listening****AUDIO 01**

Listen to the audio and write the main idea of what you hear.

AUDIO 02

Listen to the audio and write the main idea of what you hear.



2

Catalonia Referendum



Pre-viewing Activities

Search the Internet for answers to the questions below. It will help you understand the videos and audios in this unit better.

Why do some Catalans want independence? How much support is there for independence? How has the Spanish government reacted? How has the world reacted?



Words & Expressions

Video 01

Catalonia	/ˌkætəˈlɒniə/		a region in northeastern Spain 加泰罗尼亚
referendum	/ˌrefəˈrendəm/	n.	an occasion when all the people of a country can vote on an important issue 公民投票; 全民公决
Ryanair	/ˈraɪəneə/		an Irish airline company, which sells cheap tickets to cities in many European countries 瑞安航空公司
hefty	/ˈhefti/	adj.	large in size, weight, or amount 沉重的; 相当大的
Civil Aviation Authority			the organization in the UK that is responsible for controlling airport traffic and making rules relating to aircraft safety (英国) 民用航空管理局
re-route	/ˌriːˈru:t/	v.	to send vehicles, planes, telephone calls, etc. to a different place from the one where they were originally going 更改(客机等的) 路线
extortionist	/ɪkˈstɔːʃənɪst/	n.	a person who commits the crime of obtaining something from someone by using force or threats 敲诈勒索者
foodstuff	/ˈfuːdstʌf/	n.	any substance that is used as food or to make food 食物; 食品(原料)
antifreeze	/ˈæntɪfriːz/	n.	a chemical that is added to the water in the radiator of cars and other vehicles to stop it from freezing 防冻剂, 抗凝剂
International Atomic Energy Agency			the United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy 国际原子能机构

Video 02

Barcelona	/ˌbɑːsɪˈləʊnə/		a seaport in northeastern Spain 巴塞罗那
embassy	/'embəsi/	<i>n.</i>	a group of officials led by an ambassador who represent their government in a foreign country; the building in which an embassy works 大使及其随员; 大使馆
diplomat	/'diplə.mæt/	<i>n.</i>	a person whose job is to represent his or her country in a foreign country 外交官
sonic	/'sɒnɪk/	<i>adj.</i>	connected with sound, sound waves or the speed of sound 声音的; 声波的; 音速的
stampede	/stæm'pi:d/	<i>n.</i>	a situation in which a group of people or large animals such as horses suddenly start running in the same direction, especially because they are frightened or excited (人群或兽群的) 狂奔; 蜂拥
Mumbai	/mʊm'baɪ/		a seaport in western India 孟买
eyewitness	/'aɪ.wɪtnəs/	<i>n.</i>	a person who has seen a crime, an accident, etc. and can describe it afterward 目击者; 见证人
overcrowding	/ˌəʊvə'kraʊdɪŋ/	<i>n.</i>	the situation when there are too many people or things in one place 过度拥挤
rockfall	/'rɒkfɔ:l/	<i>n.</i>	a fall of loose rocks 岩崩; 落石
Yosemite National Park			a national park in California, the US 优胜美地国家公园
rockslide	/'rɒkslaɪd/	<i>n.</i>	a fall of rocks down a hillside 岩滑; 岩崩

Video 03

raid	/reɪd/	<i>v.</i>	(of the police) to enter a place suddenly in order to find someone or something (警方) 突击检查
Catalan	/'kætələn/	<i>adj.</i>	connected with Catalonia, its people, its language, or its culture 加泰罗尼亚的; 加泰罗尼亚人的; 加泰罗尼亚语的
telecommunications	/ˌtelɪkə'mjuːnə'keɪʃənz/	<i>n.</i>	the technology of sending signals, images, and messages over long distances by radio, telephone, television, satellite, etc. 电信

Rex Tillerson		雷克斯·蒂勒森（美国前国务卿）
Bali /'bɑ:li/		an island of Indonesia 巴厘（岛）
Mount Agung		a volcano in Bali, Indonesia 阿贡火山
dementia /di'menʃə/	<i>n.</i>	a serious mental disorder caused by brain disease or injury that affects the ability to think, remember, and behave normally 痴呆症
peppermint /'pepə.mɪnt/	<i>n.</i>	a plant with a strong taste and smell, often used in sweets 胡椒薄荷

Video 04

Madrid /mə'drɪd/		the capital of Spain 马德里
Health Secretary		the head of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, concerned with health matters 卫生部长
Tom Price		汤姆·普赖斯（美国前卫生部长）
mounting /'maʊntɪŋ/	<i>adj.</i>	gradually increasing—often used about things that cause problems or trouble 逐渐增加的
taxpayer /'tæks.peɪə/	<i>n.</i>	a person who pays tax to the government, especially on the money that they earn 纳税人

Video 05

scrutiny /'skru:tɪni/	<i>n.</i>	careful and thorough examination 仔细检查；审查
separatist /'sepə'retɪst/	<i>n.</i>	a member of a group of people within a country who want to separate from the rest of the country and form their own government 分离主义者，独立主义者
sovereign /'sɒvrɪn/	<i>adj.</i>	having independent authority and the right to govern itself 具有独立主权的
unconstitutional /ˌʌnkənstə'tju:ʃənəl/	<i>adj.</i>	not allowed by the constitution of a country, a political system, or an organization 违反宪法的

diplomatic /ˌdɪplə'mætɪk/	adj.	connected with managing relations between countries 外交的
spate /speɪt/	n.	a large number of things, which are usually unpleasant, that happen suddenly within a short period of time 大量, 一连串
dizziness /'dɪzɪnɪs/	n.	a temporary feeling that your sense of balance is not good and that you may fall down 头晕目眩
trauma /'trɔ:mə/	n.	an injury (such as a wound) to living tissue caused by an extrinsic agent 损伤; 外伤

Video 06

constitutional court		a high court that deals primarily with constitutional law 宪法法院
Mariano Rajoy		马利亚诺·拉霍伊 (西班牙前首相)
Islamist /ɪz'lɑ:mɪst/	n.	a person who believes strongly in the teachings of Islam 伊斯兰教徒
Marseille /mɑ:'seɪl/		a seaport in southeastern France 马赛

Audio 01

press ahead		to start or continue doing something in a determined way, often despite problems 奋进; (不顾困难地) 继续进行
strenuous /'streɪnjuəs/	adj.	needing a lot of effort or strength 耗费精力的
breach /bri:tʃ/	n.	an act of breaking a law, promise, agreement, or relationship 破坏; 违反

Audio 02

bilateral /baɪ'lætərəl/	adj.	involving two groups or countries 双边的, 双方的
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Warm-ups



Read the words and expressions of this unit first, and then fill in the blanks based on what you hear.

1. Thousands of Catalan _____ have held a final rally ahead of Sunday's referendum on independence from Spain, a vote outlawed by _____.
2. Now the US is considering applying _____ import tariffs on steel and aluminum.
3. A _____ at a railway station in India's financial hub, _____, has resulted in the death of at least 15 people.
4. German police are hunting an _____ who planted poisoned _____ in supermarkets in the south of the country.
5. More than 20 people have suffered symptoms, including _____ and brain _____.
6. A suspected militant _____ has knifed two young women, aged 20 and 17, to death outside the main railway station in the French port of _____.
7. The Office of Management and Budget believes these buildings could be costing _____ over a billion and a half dollars a year.
8. Cuba says Washington acted hastily by deciding to pull out most of its staff from its _____ in Havana, following mystery _____ attacks on its _____.
9. These were the first signs of _____ and now new research shows behavior changes could be the first clue.
10. Spanish police have _____ the Catalan regional government's _____ centre as efforts continue to stop Sunday's disputed referendum on independence.
11. _____ deaths there has forced the Japanese government to review labour laws.
12. These high-frequency trading practices have come under the _____ of both the US Justice Department and officials in New York State.
13. The president of the violence-stricken Central African Republic resigned today, after _____ pressure from regional leaders for failing to stop the country's slide toward anarchy and sectarian bloodshed.

14. Greece has been warned by the European Central Bank president that it needs to do more urgently to _____ its finances.
15. More than 460 people have been injured in the Catalonia region, as Spanish police tried to _____ Sunday's independence referendum.
16. The Catalan parliament session that was planned for next Monday has been suspended by Spain's _____.
17. The Catalans won the vote and have claimed their independence from Spain. It is reported that 90% of _____ favored splitting from Spain.
18. The governor of the Indonesian island of Bali has urged people who live outside the _____ of rumbling Mount Agung volcano to return home.
19. Under European regulations, if the original flight was cancelled, those flying with European carriers into or out of the EU have the right to refund or being _____.
20. The head of the regional government, Carles Puigdemont, told the crowd on Monday he believed Catalonia would be taking its first step as a _____ nation.



Video Clips

VIDEO 01

20170929



Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

This is BBC World News. The headlines.

The Spanish government (1) _____ to send thousands of extra police officers to the region of Catalonia to (2) _____ Sunday's independence referendum.

Ryanair has been ordered to sort out (3) _____ for passengers hit by flight cancellations immediately, or face hefty (4) _____. The UK's Civil Aviation Authority says the airline must stop (5) _____ passengers about the option to be re-routed with another airline.



Police in Germany are (6)_____ an extortionist who threatened to (7)_____ in supermarkets unless retailers paid millions of dollars. Officers have recovered a small amount of baby food (8)_____ with the liquid used in antifreeze.

The International Atomic Energy Agency says North Korea has made rapid progress on (9)_____. The agency said the country's latest nuclear test (10)_____ to the international community.

VIDEO 02

20170930



Watch the video and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

This is BBC World News. I'm Geeta Guru-Murthy with the headlines.

Supporters of Catalonia's independence from Spain are holding a (1)_____ in Barcelona ahead of a (2)_____ this Sunday. The regional authorities are insisting the vote will take place (3)_____.

The United States is (4)_____ of its embassy staff from Cuba and will warn Americans against visiting the island. It comes after at least 21 diplomats were subjected to (5)_____. But there's (6)_____ yet as to exactly what's happened.

At least 22 people have died after a (7)_____ in India's financial centre Mumbai. Eyewitnesses said (8)_____ led to overcrowding.

There's been another (9)_____ in California's Yosemite National Park just a day after a British climber was killed. (10)_____ in the latest rockslide.

Those are the headlines.