



# Earthquake

Conversation > Advanced 7



## Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

<b>earthquake</b>	A sudden and violent shaking of the earth's surface, sometimes causing great damage.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The <b>earthquake</b> was reported on the news.</i>

<b>aftershock</b>	Secondary tremors following an earthquake.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Several <b>aftershocks</b> were recorded in the hours following the earthquake.</i>

<b>building code</b>	A set of rules specifying how buildings need to be constructed in order to be safe.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The building will be knocked down for violating the <b>building code</b>.</i>

<b>epicenter</b>	The point on the surface closest to where an earthquake is centered.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The <b>epicenter</b> of the quake was 52 kilometers off the coast.</i>



<b>seismograph</b>	An instrument used for measuring the strength of an earthquake.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The first <b>seismograph</b> was invented in 132 A.D. by Chang Heng.</i>

<b>tremor</b>	A small earthquake.
[noun]	<i>Ex: The <b>tremor</b> could be felt as far away as Wellington.</i>

<b>seismically active</b>	Having recent or usual activity of earthquakes.
[phrase]	<i>Ex: Mexico is part of the most <b>seismically active</b> region in the world.</i>



## Exercise 2 – Dialogue

*Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.*

David: So, is everything ready for the new baby, Laura?

Laura: Yeah, we're almost ready. We just finished repainting the bedroom this morning.

David: Oh, no! Earthquake! Everything is shaking! Let's get under the table.

Laura: Wow, that was a big one. Are you okay, David?

David: I'm fine, don't worry about me. Is there any damage?

Laura: I doubt it. Our house has all of the earthquake protections required by the building code.



David: That's the third earthquake we've had this year. Why is our area so seismically active all of a sudden?

Laura: The news says the epicenter was right under us. It registered as 5.1 on the seismograph.

David: Another one! Watch out, Laura!

Laura: It's an aftershock! Should we get under the table again?

David: No, it's over already. That one was just a little tremor. Stay calm and collected, Laura.

Laura: Well I hope that's the last of them. I'm frightened out of my wits.



## Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

*Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.*

### Answer Pool

building code

seismically active

tremor

aftershock

seismograph

epicenter

earthquake

1. You need to have two exits to meet the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They kept a supply of water and necessary items in case of an \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Did you feel the \_\_\_\_\_? The ground was shaking.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was felt as far as 200 miles away.
5. We need a \_\_\_\_\_ to measure the strength of an earthquake.
6. Those islands lie at the closest point to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earthquake.
7. Is your region \_\_\_\_\_?



## Exercise 4 – Role Play

*Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.*

**Scene:** You were standing with your friend Howard when an earthquake occurred, talk to your friend about it.  
The teacher can be Howard.



## Exercise 5 – Discussion

*Discuss the following questions with your tutor.*

1. Have you ever experienced an earthquake? Please share your experience.
2. Do you live in, or have you ever visited, a seismically active place? If so, where?
3. Are you able to remain calm in stressful situations? Why? Why not?
4. Do you know anyone that remains cool, calm and collected in stressful situations?
5. How do you feel when you hear about natural disasters in your country and all over the world?