
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Snow in the US



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

It might look like a scene from a Christmas card, but not for long. In the north-east of the US, hundreds of **volunteers** have joined the effort to **clear** the snow.

Many areas are **bracing themselves** for floods as temperatures begin to rise.

Several days of heavy snowfall have caused serious **disruption** in New York state.

In Michigan, this plane **slid** off the icy runway at Detroit Airport, shortly after landing.

Vocabulary

volunteers

people who work of their own free will, expecting no payment for their work

clear

(here) get out of the way, remove

bracing themselves

preparing themselves (for something unpleasant)

disruption

(here) interruption of daily activities like work and transport; disorder

slid

slipped, moved smoothly and quickly

Watch the video online: Snow in the US <http://tinyurl.com/orep9y2>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports. Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

volunteers / clear / bracing themselves / disruption / slid

1. Winds of more than 90mph have hit the Devon coast causing the closure of a railway station and train _____.
2. There have been huge landslides and parts of the road are still blocked. Rescue workers are struggling to _____ the blockages.
3. People on Australia's north-west coast are _____ for the arrival of a tropical cyclone, with forecasters predicting winds of more than 170 km (106 miles) an hour.
4. A Delta Airlines jet has _____ off the end of the runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the US state of Georgia.

The plane was testing its brakes by accelerating on the runway and then attempting to stop.

5. In total 40 _____ are taking part in the Mali study - all of them are health workers who could be called upon to deal with Ebola should more cases appear in the country.

Answers

1. Winds of more than 90mph have hit the Devon coast causing the closure of a railway station and train **disruption**.

Source: Disruption as hurricane-force winds hit Devon coast
<http://tinyurl.com/k2kxz3r>

2. There have been huge landslides and parts of the road are still blocked. Rescue workers are struggling to **clear** the blockages.

Source: Workers at Sikkim power unit killed by quake landslides
<http://tinyurl.com/nchwnk7>

3. People on Australia's north-west coast are **bracing themselves** for the arrival of a tropical cyclone, with forecasters predicting winds of more than 170 km (106 miles) an hour.

Source: Australia: North-west coast braced for Cyclone Rusty
<http://tinyurl.com/ard85o4>

4. A Delta Airlines jet has **slid** off the end of the runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the US state of Georgia.

The plane was testing its brakes by accelerating on the runway and then attempting to stop

Source: A Delta Airlines plane has slid off a runway in Georgia
<http://tinyurl.com/l3ywxsh>

5. In total 40 **volunteers** are taking part in the Mali study - all of them are health workers who could be called upon to deal with Ebola should more cases appear in the country.

Source: Volunteering to test Ebola vaccine in Mali
<http://tinyurl.com/nre6lla>