

Speaking Lesson

Lesson 11: Just as I was going to bed...
レッスン 11: ちょうど寝ようとしたところ...

Target: Talking about earthquakes using time expressions
目的: 地震について、時間表現方法を使って話しましょう!

Reading
単語

New vocabulary introduced in the reading

• the Richter scale	リヒター スケール	• a go bag	非常持ち出し袋
• (be) terrified	恐怖に襲われた	• in the event of...	万一～の場合には
• (to) sway	前後に動く	• supplies	食糧
• from side to side	左右に	• a portable grill	携帯用のホットプレート
• violently	激しく	• a diaper	おむつ
• utter	完全な	• at a moment's notice	直ちに
• a pigsty	豚小屋	• a tremor	弱い地震
• and everything	そして何もかも。	• the rest of...	残りの
• incredibly	信じられないほど	• go check	様子を見に行く

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Read the passage and circle the new words as you find them

When I was in Australia I never experienced a single earthquake, but since I've been in Japan, I've probably experienced over 100 earthquakes. Most of them were little ones. Like a 2 or 3 on the Richter scale tops, but I have also experienced some pretty big ones. The first time I experienced an earthquake I was pretty terrified. A few seconds before the earthquake hit, I heard a strange noise coming from outside. Then the whole house started shaking. At first the house was just shaking a little bit, but as soon as the house started swaying violently from side to side I ran outside. The moment I went out the door all my bookcases fell over. I'm really lucky I left. If I hadn't, I probably would have been hit by the falling books, or even worse the book case itself. In an instant, my house went for being perfectly clean to an utter pig sty. The earthquake didn't last very long. The whole thing was over in a flash. I thought the earthquake was bad in my area, but it was much worse up north. Some older buildings had been partially destroyed.

One thing that did surprise me was my neighbors seemed all prepared and everything. They were incredibly organized. They each had a go bag which contained all the stuff they'd need in the event of an emergency. Like supplies, money, portable grill, baby diapers etc. At that moment, I realized how important it was to be prepared for things like this. So now, anytime there is an earthquake I always make sure that I have my go bag near me so I can leave at a moment's notice. Hopefully I'll never have to use it, though.

The next big earthquake I experienced was about two years later. I was at work when this one hit. This time I wasn't so surprised because there had been a few smaller tremors that week. Just as I got outside I realized that I had left my phone at my desk. Luckily, I was able to find it quickly and get out of there. We got the rest of the day off work because the boss wanted to check the building was safe before we all went back in. So we spent the rest of the day at the pub.

The most recent earthquake I've experienced was about a month ago. It was really quick though, it was over in the blink of an eye. I was driving my car, and the earthquake struck while I was getting off the freeway. I was lucky that I had just gotten off the freeway. I've seen pictures of a freeway collapsing during an earthquake and I really wouldn't like to experience that. After the earthquake, as I looked around I noticed that there was some smoke coming from the direction of my office. I really hope that's not my building. It's probably not, but I better go check.

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Answer the questions below

1. What did he do as soon as the house started swaying violently?
2. What happened the moment he went outside?
3. What was over in a flash?
4. What does he do anytime there is an earthquake?
5. What happened just as he got outside his office?
6. Was the most recent earthquake over in the blink of an eye?
7. What did he notice as he looked around after the quake?
8. How many different time expressions can you find?

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