

## LESSON

## 3

## TSUNAMI～津波～

## Objectives:

- Familiarize yourself with tsunami terms and expressions so you can support non-Japanese speakers more effectively.
- Understand non-Japanese speakers' feelings so you can respond to tsunami from their perspective.

Source:/reference: <http://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/eqev/data/en/guide/tsunamiinfo.html>  
 Japanese version: <http://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/eqev/data/joho/tsunamiinfo.html>

Category	Indication	Expected damage and action to be taken
<b>Major Tsunami Warning**</b>	Expected tsunami height > 3m ⇒ Huge	Wooden structures may be completely destroyed and/or washed away; anybody exposed will be caught in tsunami currents. <b>Evacuate from coastal or river areas immediately to higher ground or a tsunami evacuation building.</b>
<b>Tsunami Warning</b>	Expected tsunami height ≤ 3m ⇒ High	Tsunami waves will hit, damaging low-lying areas. Buildings will be flooded and anybody exposed will be caught in tsunami currents. <b>Evacuate from coastal or river areas immediately to higher ground or a tsunami evacuation building.</b>
<b>Tsunami Advisory</b>	Expected tsunami height ≤ 1m	Anybody exposed will be caught in strong tsunami currents in the sea. Fish farming facilities will be washed away and small boats may capsize. <b>Get out of the water and leave coastal areas immediately.</b>

## Note

- Tsunamis may hit before warnings are issued when near the coast. Be sure to evacuate when strong shaking or extended weak ground motion occurs.
- If a Major Tsunami Warning with the term "Huge" is issued, tsunamis as large as those seen after the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 may hit. Evacuate immediately to the safest place possible.
- Tsunami heights may exceed estimates due to coastal topography, etc. in some regions. Do not assume you are in a safe place; keep moving to higher and higher ground wherever possible.
- Tsunami waves are expected to hit repeatedly. Do not leave the tsunami evacuation location until the Tsunami Warning is lifted.

## Words/Expressions

<input type="checkbox"/> 流される	washed away	<input type="checkbox"/> 晒される	exposed
<input type="checkbox"/> (波などに)のまれる	caught in	<input type="checkbox"/> 直ちに	immediately
<input type="checkbox"/> 流れ	currents	<input type="checkbox"/> 養殖	fish farming
<input type="checkbox"/> 転覆する	capsize	<input type="checkbox"/> 長く続く	extended
<input type="checkbox"/> 予測、推測	estimate	<input type="checkbox"/> 地形	topography
<input type="checkbox"/> 仮定(想定、憶測)する	assume	<input type="checkbox"/> (指示などが)解除される	lifted

## Foreigners' voice

3.11 caused tremendous damage to survivors. Looking back the time, foreigners in Iwate shared their experiences and lessons learned in *March 11<sup>th</sup> and the foreign residents of Iwate* published by the Iwate International Association. Read the selected comments below and discuss what we can learn from their experiences.

### Article

P18. Ami and Xiangwei: No matter how much information can be provided, it will do no good if one does not actively seek out the information. ...You must be aware of what potential disaster could strike our region, and where you should evacuate to before a disaster strikes.

P20. Mayu Saito: Foreigners who live in Japan must learn about earthquakes and tsunami, and where they should evacuate. Saito thinks there should be more information in many different languages.

P23. Haydee: The Philippines community had been strong before the disaster, and even now it is a precious outlet where people can share their worries and fears.

P24. Susan Kinno: But many foreign residents were in a panic because they could not understand road signs like, "Road Blocked," or earthquake information on television. Kinno says she can now understand the importance of knowing the right vocabulary during an emergency.

P34. Paul Dixon: Dixon went to stay in the apartment of his friend in Iwaizumi, but was unable to get the information he needed in English, such as where to get food and water, where to withdraw money, and so on. "I wished they would make this kind of information available in English as well."

P38. Dechun: While she is thankful that her husband and other Japanese such as her co-workers and her company president were right there by her side, life in the temporary housing since the earthquake has been difficult. It was hard forging good relationship with those around her, and she was hurt by insensitive rumors rooted in her being a foreigner.

Seek out: 求める

Potential: 可能性のある、潜在的な

Road blocked: 道路封鎖

Temporary housing: 仮設住宅

Insensitive: 心ない

(be) aware of: 知っている

Outlet: (感情の) はげ口⇒コミュニティ

Withdraw money: お金を下ろす

Forge relationship: 関係をつくる

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- Pick up or underline keywords in each of their stories.

Example: “community” (p23)

- What can they do now to prepare for future disasters?
- What can language supporters do to make their lives easier during and after a disaster?

Let's watch some footage to feel what they mean!

- Tsunami warning message in Patong Beach, Phuket (YouTube)
- Evacuation over tsunami warning in Valparaiso of Chile (YouTube)
- Ashkelon (Israel) tsunami drill (YouTube)

☆ You may have noticed some tsunami related signs in the footage. Now look at these.

Can you name the following signs in Japan?



## Let's practice – Sean comes to Kamaishi

Pay attention to the hazards and use your local knowledge.

Notice that the first three situations are for Sean, who is a visitor. Other examples are for foreign residents. You probably need different responses..

Meet Sean

### Sean

Sean is visiting Kamaishi for a Rugby World Cup 2019 match. He's from Ireland where earthquakes/tsunami are extremely rare. He decided to watch matches in Kamaishi to show support for their recovery after 3.11 but his knowledge about tsunamis is limited.



1

*<<You're a local guide and met Sean for the first time at the station. As soon as you and Sean stepped out, Sean noticed the tsunami warning sign.>>*

Sean: Whoa, look at the sign. Are we already at risk? How far are we from the coast?

You: It's about one kilometer and yes, this area was destroyed by tsunami six years ago.

Sean: So, if a tsunami comes now, what do we do?

[Carry on conversation!]



2

*«There are still two weeks before the match. Sean is now aware of the risk and wants to prepare as much as he can. »*

Sean: As a visitor, what can I do to prepare for the worst case scenario? Is there anything I should buy or learn?

You: Since you don't live here, you cannot buy much but at least get.... Or find out in advance....

[Tell him what to buy during his stay or what he should know in advance.]

3

《You are taking Sean to the stadium in Unosumai, which was severely damaged by the tsunami.》

You: This is the stadium. It holds 16,000 people. You can enjoy the scenery of the ocean and mountains at the same time from here. This area was destroyed by the tsunami and a lot of people were killed. You can still see that the area is not completely rebuilt.

Sean: Yeah, I can see that. So, I'm sure they have evacuation routes in case of tsunami?

☆ 避難場所は標高20メートル以上を基準に、スタジアムからのルートは▽鎧坂（よろいざか）橋から、高台に建設中の学校まで▽東日本大震災時に児童・生徒が住民と共に避難した国道45号恋の峠まで▽南の林道を登り、建設中の箱崎半島線への3方向を想定している。いずれも1キロから2キロの距離がある。（出典：<http://en-trance.jp/news/kamaishishinbun/11065.html>）

## What would you do?

- ① A long and strong earthquake was felt at 1pm. Your neighbor is an English speaker from the Philippines. You heard a siren and announcements warning of a tsunami. You want to make sure your neighbor knows that you are in the high-risk area. She knows that she needs to evacuate, but she is worried about her son at a local elementary school.
- ② You have a friend who lives inland but by the river in Yamada. After a strong earthquake struck, you saw him on Facebook posting that he was safe and ok. You know it is too early to decide that he's safe. Fortunately you can reach him by voice chat on messenger. What do you tell him?
- ③ A "Major Tsunami Warning" was issued. That means you are expecting a huge tsunami. You and your foreign co-workers heard the announcement but it was only in Japanese. Although they didn't understand Japanese fully, they could hear the word "tsunami" being said repeatedly. They are in a panic. You could also be in a panic but know what to do. Take them to the nearest evacuation spot on the hill.