

LESSON

6

SNOW/ICE

～雪氷災害～

Objectives:

- Learn snow/ice related words and expressions.
- Consider how best to prepare for winter challenges and assist foreigners unfamiliar with these situations.

Words and Phrases

We're having a severe winter this season. Natural disasters in the winter range from blizzards to avalanches. As residents of Iwate, let's prepare ourselves for potential hazards so we know what to do to help foreigners who have less experience with snow and ice.

<input type="checkbox"/> 大雪	heavy snow
<input type="checkbox"/> 吹雪	snowstorm/winter storm/blizzard
<input type="checkbox"/> 地吹雪	blowing snow
<input type="checkbox"/> 吹き溜まり	snow drift
<input type="checkbox"/> 雪崩	avalanche
<input type="checkbox"/> つらら	icicle
<input type="checkbox"/> 低体温	hypothermia
<input type="checkbox"/> 凍傷	frostbite
<input type="checkbox"/> 一酸化炭素中毒	carbon monoxide poisoning
<input type="checkbox"/> 雪かきする	shovel/remove snow
<input type="checkbox"/> 除雪車	snowplow
<input type="checkbox"/> 除雪機（家庭用など）	snow blower
<input type="checkbox"/> 路面凍結	icy road, black ice
<input type="checkbox"/> 視界	visibility
<input type="checkbox"/> 融雪剤	melting agent
<input type="checkbox"/> 5台の玉突き事故	5-car pile-up
<input type="checkbox"/> 車が雪道でスタックする	Car gets stuck in the snow

Severe winter in other countries

Watch the two videos. They are recent events.

Japan is not the only country that is facing a severe winter this year!

1. Frozen floodwaters trap vehicles in storm-battered Massachusetts

CityNews Toronto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7opg5vDQFM>

In the coastal town of Revere, Massachusetts, a short distance from Boston, several vehicles were trapped in ice after floodwaters deluged neighborhood streets and then froze in sub-zero temperatures.

2. Italy: Dozens feared dead after avalanche hits hotel

Al Jazeera English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eIFdrzCrt4>

A three story hotel was swallowed up by a wall of snow. The avalanche was so powerful, it moved the building ten meters.

Several guests and workers were trapped inside. The avalanche hit in the early hours of the morning, meaning there was little chance to escape.

Emergency vehicles had to plow through nearly two meters high snow to try to get to the scene. Earlier, alpine rescue teams on skis managed to tunnel their way into the hotel and saved two people.

Four earthquakes struck central Italy in four hours on Wednesday. The same region hit by a deadly earthquake in August. It's not clear whether the tremors triggered this avalanche. There have been avalanche warning over the past week due to severe winter weather and the record snowfall. It's made this rescue difficult and questions are being raised as to whether Italian officials acted quickly enough to respond.

How do you describe these things?

Images below show common winter hazards or issues.

Can you describe them properly?

1. What's going on here?
Why do they do this?



2. What's in the bag? What are they for?



3. What are the risks here?
4. How can you prevent it?



5. What happened?
6. How can you prepare for this?



←

7. What are they doing? Have you done it?

How do you describe these things?

Can you describe what's going on in each of the pictures below?

8. Describe this condition. How dangerous is it for drivers?
9. How can you minimize the risk?



10. What are these? What are the risks here?



11. What is this condition called and what are the risks here?
12. How can you minimize the risk?



13. What is he doing? What happens if he doesn't do it?



14. What is going on in the image? When does this happen?
15. What do you need to do when this could happen?



Let's practice – First winter in Japan

Not all foreigners are familiar with winter hazards especially they're from warmer areas. It must be hard to cope with winter in Iwate if it is their first winter in Japan.

Meet Deepa

Deepa

Deepa is a student at Iwate University. She's from South India and has never lived in a cold place. This is her first winter in Japan and she's very excited.

You're a good friend of Deepa and live nearby.



1

<<You received a phone call from Deepa on one very cold morning..>>

Deepa: Hello. Good morning.

You: Good morning, Deepa. What's up?

Deepa: Well, I woke up in the morning and notice that I lost water in the kitchen. I've been paying bills. Could you call a water service for me? But the strange thing is that I can use water from a bathroom sink.

You: Okay...[Tell her what could have happened and help her.]

2

<<You received a phone call from Deepa on the following day.>>

Deepa: Good morning.

You: Good morning, Deepa.

Deepa: Thanks for your help yesterday. It worked really well. Today, my car windshield was covered with ice, so I'm boiling water now.

You: Hold on. You're not going to pour hot water on the car, are you?

Deepa: Is that bad?

3

《Deepa and you will go to Appi Kogen together. You're expecting heavy snowfall on that day. You're discussing how you can go there. Take the following conditions into consideration and discuss what to do.》

Via highway → 速い、高い、時々通行止めになる、吹雪くと危ない、凍結防止剤が散布されている、除雪されている、

Via local roads → 遅い、安い、カーブが多い、日陰は凍っている、除雪されている、地吹雪で視界が悪くなることも

Bus from Morioka Station → 盛岡からは朝10時と11時の2本、安比からは午後3時と4時の2本のみ、路線バスなので混むかもしれない、料金は片道1130円