

High-Intermediate 2
Unit 4, Reading
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Read this excerpt from a news magazine article.

excerpt = extract, part, passage

Force Four

By Kenji Yamaguchi



In late August 1992, meteorologists from the National Hurricane Center in Florida noticed a small tropical storm over West Africa. When the storm grew stronger and moved west, they named it Andrew. A few days after that, Lixion Avila of the National Hurricane Center, who had been tracking Andrew all night, called his boss at 3:00 A.M. and told him that they had a hurricane. Andrew quickly grew into a force four, and the National Hurricane Center went on the air to warn Florida residents that a giant storm was coming. They said Andrew might even become a force five—the most powerful class of hurricanes.

early August ⇒ the first ten days of August

mid August ⇒ the second ten days of August

late August ⇒ the third ten days of August

meteorology = the scientific study of the weather conditions

meteorologist = an expert in meteorology

tropical = related to the area near the equator

equator = an imaginary line which divides the earth into northern and southern hemispheres

track = follow, monitor

Indirect Speech: Lixion Avila told him (that) they had a hurricane.

Direct Speech: Lixion Avila said, “We have a hurricane.”

go on the air = appear on TV or radio

resident = inhabitant; dweller; a person who lives in a particular area

Indirect Speech: They warned Florida residents that a giant storm was coming.

Direct Speech: They said, “A giant storm is coming”.

class = category

Indirect Speech: They said Andrew might even become a force five.

Direct Speech: They said, “Andrew might become a force five”.

Government workers told people that they had to leave homes near the coast, and television reporters announced that everyone should buy extra food and water. As Floridians prepared for Hurricane Andrew, stores and gas stations reported that they could not keep up with demands for canned food, bottled water, and gasoline.

Indirect Speech: Government workers told people they had to leave homes near the coast.

Direct Speech: Government workers said, “You have to leave homes near the coast”.

Indirect Speech: Television reporters announced that everyone should buy extra food and water.

Direct Speech: Television reporters said, “Everyone should buy extra food and water.”

as = while

Floridian = a person from Florida

gasoline (American) = petrol (British)

gasoline = gas = the fuel used in ordinary cars

gas station (American) = petrol station (British)

keep up with = provide, supply

Indirect Speech: Stores and gas stations reported that they could not keep up with demands for canned food, bottled water, and gasoline.

Direct Speech: Stores and gas stations said, “We cannot keep with demands for canned food, bottled water, and gasoline.”

In spite of their preparations, Andrew's 170-mile-an-hour winds caused terrible damage. After the storm, officials at the National Hurricane Center reported that the electricity had gone out and the radar had been torn off the roof of the twelve-story center.

official = office-holder; authority; administrator

radar = radio detecting and ranging

tear ⇔ tore, torn

story (American) = storey (British) = the floor of a building

Indirect Speech: Officials reported that the electricity had gone out and the radar had been torn off the roof of the twelve-story center.

Direct Speech: Officials said, “The electricity has gone out and the radar has been torn off the roof of the twelve-story center.

Power outage is the loss of the electrical power network supply to an end user.

power outage = a powercut, a power out, a power blackout, a power failure, a power loss, or a blackout

Those in private homes suffered most. One family said they had run from room to room with windows exploding all around them. Jim Jenkins, who had just moved to Florida in June, told a reporter that if he had known what a force-four hurricane was like, he would have left immediately. He said that he and his family had spent a terrifying night in a closet after a trailer had blown through the house. Jim said, "There are no words to describe this storm."

suffer = be troubled

explode = blow up

Indirect Speech: One family said they had run from room to room with windows exploding all around them.

Direct Speech: One family said, "We ran from room to room with windows exploding all around us."

just = very recently

Indirect Speech: Jim Jenkins told a reporter that if he had known what a force-four hurricane was like, he would have left immediately.

Direct Speech: Jim Jenkins said, "If I had known what a force-four hurricane was like, I would have left immediately."

terrifying = frightening, scary

trailer = mobile home

trailer (American) = caravan (British)

Indirect Speech: He said that he and his family had spent a terrifying night in a closet after a trailer had blown through the house.

Direct Speech: He said, "My family and I spent a terrifying night in a closet after a trailer blew through the house."

After the terror came the realization of loss -- a young woman held her baby as she sifted through the scraps of metal that had been their home. Her husband, still dazed, told us that he had lost his home, his job, and his dog in just two hours. While the government struggled to provide emergency services for the victims, officials predicted it would cost at least \$20 billion to rebuild after Andrew.

terror = fear

realization = understanding

trailer park = caravan site

sift through = examine

scrap = piece

dazed = shocked

Indirect Speech: Her husband told us that he had lost his home, his job, and his dog in just two hours.

Direct Speech: Her husband said, "I lost my home, my job, and my dog in just two hours."

struggle = try hard

Indirect Speech: Officials predicted it would cost at least \$20 billion to rebuild after Andrew.

Direct Speech: Officials said, "It will cost at least \$20 billion to rebuild after Andrew".

Naming Hurricanes

- Hurricanes receive names (like Andrew) to avoid confusion when more than one storm is being observed.
- Hurricanes are named by the World Meteorological Organization.
- When a storm results in a large loss of life or property damage, its name is "retired." (Andrew was retired and replaced by Alex.)
- Before 1979, hurricanes were only given women's names.
- Today hurricanes alternate between men's and women's names in alphabetical order (Alex, Bonnie, Charley, Danielle, etc.).
- There are no hurricanes that begin with the letters Q, U, X, Y, or Z.

WMO = World Meteorological Organization

result in = cause; lead to

property = belongings

alternate = shift, follow one another





Source:

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