



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

[The Great Storm 20 years on 大风暴20周年](#)

## The Great Storm 20 years on 大风暴20周年

### Devastation across Britain 整个英国遭灾

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 1987, southern Britain was **hit by hurricane force winds**, the worst storm to occur in Britain since 1703.

Twenty years on, Britain is remembering the **devastation** caused by what came to be known as 'The Great Storm.' 15 million trees across the region were **uprooted** due to the wind, as well as the fact that a wet autumn in general had made the ground very muddy.

The falling trees caused **destruction** to buildings and vehicles and blocked roads and railway lines, causing everyone from commuters to school-children to stay at home.

There were also **black-outs** across the area, as power lines were damaged by falling trees and flying debris. People resorted to candles and torches for light, and gas stoves and open fires to cook food.

The storm raged for 4 hours before dawn, and **claimed 18 lives**. The effects of the bad weather were **heightened** by the fact that most people were completely unprepared, because the weather forecasters were **caught out**.

Earlier that week, weather forecasts had predicted severe weather. But forecasters thought it would miss Britain, and only affect the English Channel. A weatherman, Michael Fish is **infamous** for saying the storm wouldn't happen, though in fact he was talking about a hurricane in Florida at the time.

The **freak storm** caused damage of more than £1 billion pounds (15 billion RMB), and hundreds of people sustained injuries.

But could the same thing happen today in Britain? Well, as a result of **climate change** many people think that sudden and severe weather changes are more likely. However, **meteorological** technology has improved, and now uses satellites to get a much more accurate picture of future weather. So if another Great Storm comes along, the **British public** should be better warned and prepared!

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>hit by</b> 遭受打击	<b>hurricane force winds</b> 飓风般的大风
<b>devastation</b> 灾难性破坏	<b>uprooted</b> (大树) 连根拔
<b>destruction</b> 破坏	<b>commuters</b> 乘公交车上下班的人
<b>black out</b> 停电; 断电	<b>debris</b> 废墟; 瓦砾
<b>resorted to</b> 诉诸于; ...	<b>open fires</b> 明火
<b>raged</b> 肆虐; 持续	<b>claimed</b> 报道称
<b>heightened</b> 加重	<b>caught out</b> 纰漏被发现
<b>weatherman</b> 天气预报员	<b>infamous</b> 声名狼藉的
<b>freak storm</b> 破天荒的/不寻常的风暴	<b>climate change</b> 天气变化
<b>meteorological</b> 气象学的	<b>the British public</b> 英国公众

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Most of the storm damage was caused by falling trees. True / False
2. Although there were injuries, nobody was killed in the storm. True / False
3. Many people had no electricity because of the storm. True / False
4. The British weathermen forecast that the storm would happen. True / False
5. Weather forecasters are still using the same technology as in 1987. True / False

## 2. Male and female jobs 男性和女性职业

**Do you know how to describe people who do these jobs? Are there different words for male and female workers or just one word?**

你知道如何形容从事以下这些职业的人吗？这些职业有没有性别之分还是统一称呼？

Examples:

- a) a person who works with accounts
- b) a person who acts in a play or film

	Male	Female	Both
a			accountant
b	actor	actress	

- c) a person who teaches children
- d) a person who runs a school
- e) a person who brings food in a restaurant
- f) a person who sells meat
- g) a person who catches criminals
- h) a person who draws or paints

	Male	Female	Both
c			
d			
e			
f			
g			
h			

### 3. Colour idioms 颜色成语

Which colour fills the gap in these English idioms?

你能从下列词表中选择最合适的一个为句子填空吗?

pink

black

white

red

green

blue

a) *A time when there are no lights on* : A \_\_\_\_\_ - out

b) *Jealousy* : The \_\_\_\_\_ -eyed monster

c) *Really pleased* : Tickled \_\_\_\_\_

d) *Unhappiness* : Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

e) *Hiding the truth* : A \_\_\_\_\_ -wash

f) *Going out and having fun* : Paint the town \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with The Great Storm in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与大风暴有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

f	h	i	n	j	u	r	y	a	f	i	w
t	h	n	s	t	r	w	c	v	b	b	e
y	u	u	d	a	m	e	x	l	o	l	a
r	f	o	r	e	c	a	s	t	c	a	t
s	w	q	u	r	b	t	z	r	l	c	h
t	r	e	e	s	i	r	p	e	i	k	e
o	g	m	k	l	n	c	l	k	m	o	r
r	f	b	h	p	j	m	a	b	a	u	f
m	w	f	g	u	u	j	l	n	t	t	r
d	r	d	e	b	r	i	s	w	e	s	d
o	i	y	g	f	y	n	b	x	c	f	g
p	l	k	j	s	d	d	a	m	a	g	e

hurricane	weather	forecast	trees	black-out
damage	storm	climate	injury	debris

# Answers 答案

## 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

1. Most of the storm damage was caused by falling trees. **True**
2. Although there were injuries, nobody was killed in the storm. **False**
3. Many people had no electricity because of the storm. **True**
4. The British weathermen forecast that the storm would happen. **False**
5. Weather forecasters are still using the same technology as in 1987. **False**

## 3. Colour idioms

- a) *A time when there are no lights on* : A **black-out**
- b) *Jealousy* : The **green-eyed** monster
- c) *Really pleased* : Tickled **pink**
- d) *Unhappiness* : Feeling **blue**
- e) *Hiding the truth* : A **white-wash**
- f) *Going out and having fun* : Paint the town **red**

## 2. Male and female jobs

	Male	Female	Both
c			teacher
d	headmaster	headmistress	
e	waiter	waitress	
f			butcher
g	policeman	policewoman	police officer
h			artist

## 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

		i	n	j	u	r	y					w	
	h											b	e
		u										l	a
	f	o	r	e	c	a	s	t	c	a	t		
s				r						l	c	h	
t	r	e	e	s	i					i	k	e	
o					n	c				m	o	r	
r					j		a			a	u		
m					u				n	t	t		
		d	e	b	r	i	s			e			
					y								
						d	a	m	a	g	e		