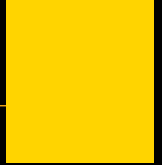


ENGLISH



The Storm

WE ARE NEW YORK Magazine



Learn English on TV with our stories



WE ARE NEW YORK A TV SHOW

www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish

CREDITS

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What's Inside

The Story: The Storm

Pages 2–9

Who We Are

Pages 10–11

How We Did It

Pages 12–13

What You Can Do

Pages 14–15

What You Can Say

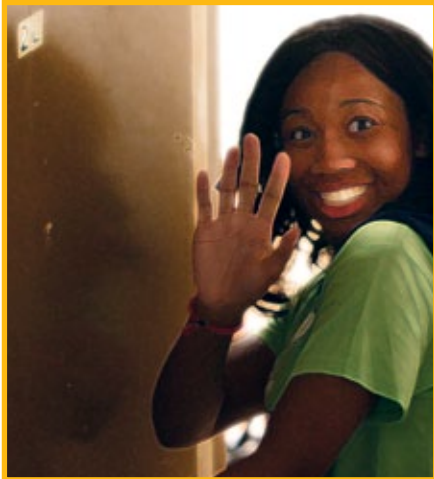
Page 16

Helpful Words

Page 17

THE STORY

The Storm



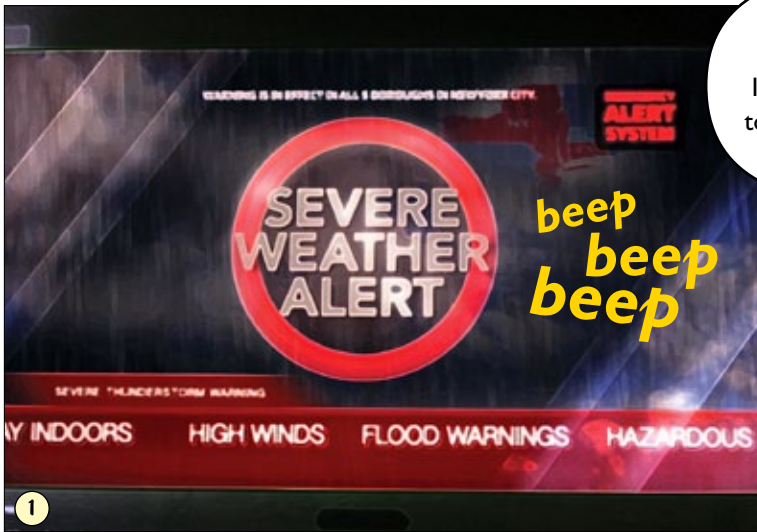
Aku

It's a hot summer day in New York City. Aku is going to the beach. Then she is meeting her parents for a picnic in the park. The plans are all made. Everyone is ready for a day of sun, fun, good food and friends. But no one planned for what happened next.

Soon after Aku leaves, there's a storm alert on TV: Flood warnings... Hazardous weather conditions... Possible tornado...

It sounds terrible! Kojo and his friend Alberto go to find Aku. Efie waits at home with her friend, Isabel, in case Aku returns. Cell phone service goes out. The electricity goes out, too. Mrs. Chen, a neighbor, comes over and the women talk about planning for emergencies. Mrs. Chen and Isabel comfort Efie. Finally, Kojo and Alberto return, but without Aku...

**Where is she? Is she safe or is she in danger?
What can the family do? What can you do to
prepare for an emergency?**



Look at those clouds. That looks really bad. I'm going to the beach to find Aku. She left her cell phone home.



I'm going, too.



But what about the storm? The alert said to stay indoors.



My daughter's at the beach. Big waves... Lightning... There's a huge storm coming!

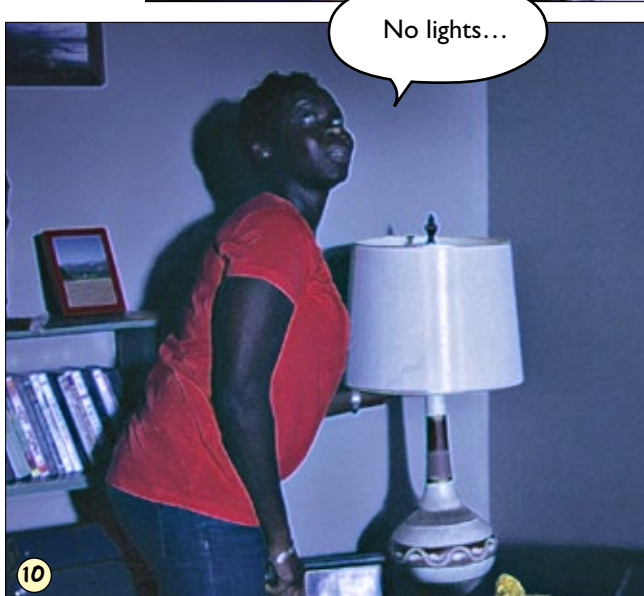


Efie, you better stay here in case she comes back.

The storm is even worse than expected.
Efie and Isabel are waiting.
They are very worried.



The phone rings, but the line goes dead!



**There's a knock on the door.
It's Mrs. Chen, a neighbor.**



I'm just checking on the people I know in the building to see if everyone is okay.

In storms like this, we have to take care of each other.



What can we do to be ready when they come home?

Do you have water? In case the water shuts off, it's good to have some. Do you have any empty containers?



And maybe we should fill the bathtub... For washing and for flushing the toilet.



Whenever there was a big storm back home, my mother always did that.



What about flashlights? And extra batteries?



It pays to get ready, to be prepared all the time. Every storm is different.

Efie remembers something important.



Aku had a booklet about getting ready. She brought it home from school...

Flashback!

A Few Months Ago...



What's this?

18



Some information they gave us in school about getting ready for emergencies... Go Bags, meeting places...

In a Go Bag, you need copies of important documents, phone numbers and addresses of family and friends, a flashlight, bottled water...

19

Back to the Present...



I'm so glad I'm not alone. I don't know what I'd do without you.

21



We're all in the same boat, together!

22

Kojo and Alberto return.



Where is she?!
What happened?



There was too much
wind and rain.
Huge branches were
breaking off the trees.

Things were blowing everywhere.
It's terrible out there.



Where is Alberto?

There are two kids stuck in the elevator.
Alberto is talking to them right now
while the super gets help.

Stuck in an elevator?
Don't they know...
You never get in an elevator
in an emergency!

Isabel runs out to help. Kojo hugs Efie.





The storm is over...

28



The trees aren't moving.
The wind has stopped.

Look at all that water
in the street!

29



...But Aku is still missing.

It's going to be dark soon.
Where is my child???

30



Suddenly the phone rings.
Phone service is back!

31



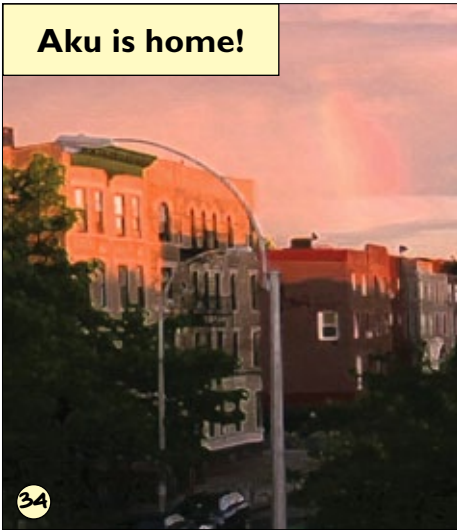
Hello?
Oh! Where are you?
Are you okay?

32



33

Aku is home!



34

Aku's friend's mom brings her home.



35

I got a storm alert from Notify NYC, so I didn't let the kids go outside.



So when you heard there was a storm coming you never left for the beach?



36

Right. We "sheltered in place," just like they said in school.



37

It's not too late to have a picnic... indoors!

What about our picnic?

We can spread a blanket right here on the floor.



38

Yes. Aku's home and our friends are all here!



39



40

WHO WE ARE

EFIE

I am a nurse from West Africa and Aku's mother. One day, when I came home from work, Aku showed me a guide about preparing for emergencies. She brought it home from school. It has information about Go Bags, meeting places and a lot more.



KOJO

As a parent, you want to do everything possible to make your family safe. When I heard there was a storm coming, I tried to contact Aku. But she left her phone at home. It's important to talk with your family ahead of time to make plans in case of an emergency.



AKU

Before the storm arrived, I was at my friend's house. My friend's mom received a text message from "Notify NYC," so we stayed in the house, safe and dry. I learned a lot. I learned not to leave my phone at home. I learned how to sign up for "Notify NYC"—to receive free emergency information. I learned how important it is to be prepared. I am going to complete *My Emergency Plan* with my family.





ISABEL AND ALBERTO

We are friends of Efie and Kojo. We planned to have a picnic in the park, but our plans got interrupted by a dangerous storm. We have experience with emergencies back home in South America. We can use what we know already here in New York City.



MRS. CHEN

I live in the same building as Efie, Kojo and Aku. When the storm hit, I went to check in on my neighbors. I live alone, so community is very important to me. I have experience in my country with emergencies, too—typhoons and earthquakes. Sometimes, you can't do everything by yourself. We're all in the same boat, together!



FRIEND'S MOM

I signed up for "Notify NYC" a few months ago, and I have already received some very helpful alerts. Sometimes, the alert is about a severe storm. I pay attention to these alerts because I know how quickly the weather can change. I live near the beach. It's an area that gets flooded easily. I am very glad that I got the alert so I could protect my daughter and Aku from the storm.

HOW WE DID IT

**Here's how we managed during the storm.
Maybe these ideas will help you.**

- 1** First of all, we got information. We listened to the alert on TV, and we paid attention to it.
- 2** When I didn't know where Aku was, my friends supported me. I was so glad that my friends were there with me.
- 3** Isabel, Mrs. Chen and I talked about what you need to be ready in an emergency. We talked about supplies you need, such as flashlights and batteries, and containers to store water.
- 4** In addition to water, it's important to have extra food too, in case you can't go out for a few days.
- 5** It's also important to have contact information for your friends and family, and copies of your important documents in a safe place.
- 6** When Mrs. Chen, Isabel and I were talking, I remembered the booklet called *My Emergency Plan* that Aku showed me about getting ready for emergencies. She brought it home from school. It helps you make a plan for an emergency to keep your family safe. It has useful information about Go Bags, meeting places, and other important parts of a safety plan. Get one of these booklets and make your plan today! Go to: **www.nyc.gov/readyny** or call 311 to get a copy of *My Emergency Plan*.



HOW WE DID IT

New York City is surrounded by water. In a storm, flooding and high winds are common. When a weather emergency happens, it's important to be prepared and to know what to do. And it's important to remember that we are all in the same boat, together.



A lot of people live alone or feel isolated in New York City. But most people live in apartments, and an apartment building can become a community. You don't have to be alone in an emergency.



In an emergency, it's never good to get into an elevator because the electricity can go out and the elevator can get stuck.

During the blackout, when I found out that two kids were stuck in the elevator, I stayed with them until the super came to help.



I listened to my friend's mom, who got the "Notify NYC" alert. That's why I didn't go to the beach. She told me how to sign up for "Notify NYC." You go to www.nyc.gov/NotifyNYC. That way, you can get the alerts you need to be safe.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Goal

You want to make a plan for an emergency.

1. Get information about making a plan. Go to www.nyc.gov/readyny and download the guide *My Emergency Plan* that Aku brought home to her mom.
2. Meet with your family, a friend, a neighbor or a caregiver and follow the steps in *My Emergency Plan* together.
3. Make an emergency supply kit for your home. Your kit should have enough food and water for three days, a flashlight and batteries, and supplies for your health needs and for everyone in your family, including pets.
4. Make a Go Bag with copies of important documents, bottled water, a flashlight and batteries, snacks, a change of clothes and other essential things.
5. Decide on two meeting places in case you get separated from your family and if it is not safe to go home: one meeting place that is close to your home, and another meeting place in a different neighborhood in case your neighborhood is not safe.

Goal

You want to help your community be prepared for an emergency.

- 1.** Show the booklet *My Emergency Plan* to coworkers, friends, neighbors. Tell them how they can get one. (Go to www.nyc.gov/readyny or call 311.)
- 2.** Think about people in your community or building that may need extra help in an emergency—elderly people or people who need wheelchairs, for example. Speak with them in advance. Ask them how you can help. Make a plan together.
- 3.** Ask at least two people to be in your emergency support network—family members, friends, neighbors, caregivers, coworkers or members of community groups. You can count on each other in emergencies.
- 4.** Call 311 to find out about volunteer opportunities to help your community to prepare for an emergency.
- 5.** Join New York City Citizen Corps—a group of community leaders and volunteers. Go to www.nyc.gov/citizencorps or call 311 to find out more.

WHAT YOU CAN SAY

When you speak with your family, friends or neighbors about making a plan, ask each other:

- What do you do to prepare for an emergency?
- Do you have an emergency supply kit at home? What food and other supplies do you keep in your home in case of an emergency?
- Do you have a Go Bag? What's in your Go Bag? Where do you keep it?
- What is a good meeting place for your family in case you get separated in an emergency? What is a good place that is close to home in case home isn't safe? What is a good meeting place in another neighborhood?
- Who can you call in case you can't stay at home and need a safe place to stay? What are their telephone numbers? What are their addresses?
- Does everyone in your household have the contact information for each other and for people you may need to contact in case of an emergency?

When you call 311 for information, you can say:

- I would like to make a plan so my family and I can be prepared for emergency situations. Can you please send me a copy of *Ready New York: My Emergency Plan*?
- I live in (location) _____. Can you tell me if my neighborhood is in a hurricane evacuation zone?
- What is the address of the nearest evacuation center?
- I would like to volunteer to help my community prepare for emergencies. What can I do?

Call 911 if you need immediate help in any emergency situation.
Call 311 if your life is not in danger and you need information about what to do and where to go during an emergency.

311 and 911
speak your language.
24 hours a day.

HELPFUL WORDS

Be prepared

Get ready

To **be prepared** for an emergency, you need three things: information, supplies and an emergency plan.

Go Bag

A bag of things you need in case you have to evacuate—to leave home in a hurry

What five things are important to put in your **Go Bag**?

Meeting place

A place where the family meets in case you are separated

What are two good **meeting places** for your family? (one close to your home and one in another neighborhood)

Notify NYC

A system for getting email or text message alerts in New York City

Sign up for **Notify NYC**, so you can get alerts about emergencies that might affect you.

Shelter in place

Stay where you are in an emergency

In some emergencies, you will be told to “**shelter in place**”—to stay where you are.

Evacuate

To leave a dangerous or risky place in an emergency

If it is not safe to stay where you are, you may need to **evacuate**, and it’s good to have a plan for a safe place to go.

The NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

The department of the NY City government that helps people prepare for emergencies

Go to the **OEM** website—www.nyc.gov/readyny—to get important information about different kinds of emergencies: hurricanes, health emergencies, fire and others.

WE ARE NEW YORK

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