

39. Emergency

Have you ever been in an emergency? Were you ever in a risky situation? As society becomes more complex, danger seems to lurk around every corner. Terrible car crashes are probably the most common sort of sudden, serious calamity, but the number of violent crimes, burglaries, fires, and so forth also seems to rise continuously.

And yet most people fail to take any steps to deal with any of these possibilities should they occur. "It can't happen to me" seems to be a common attitude. But accidents are far more likely to occur when they are unexpected than when anticipated. We should all receive training in how to deal with an emergency situation: first-aid lessons, self-defense, how to contact the proper authorities quickly, and so forth. Our failure to be prepared could literally mean the difference between life and death.

Comprehension

1. What is the implied reason for the rising number of accidents and serious incidents?
2. Besides the emergencies listed, what else could easily happen to us?
3. How should we deal with possible bad situations?

Your opinion

1. Are you willing and able to help people in an emergency?
2. If you saw someone being mugged, would you risk your life to help?
3. Can we criticize people who refuse to help someone in an emergency?
4. How could you prepare for a possible earthquake?
5. Do you have a first-aid kit at home?
6. Have you ever called the fire department? The police department?
7. If you were burglarized, pickpocketed, mugged or robbed, would you report to the police or would you just pretend nothing happened? How about, if you were involved in an automobile accident?
8. If you had a flat tire on the road, what would you do?
9. If you came across someone with a flat tire, would you be willing to help?
10. If you came on a traffic accident, would you help transfer the injured to the hospital?

