

GRAMMAR BUILDER

A / an or the

A hurricane swept through Galveston, Texas yesterday. (first reference)

The hurricane left many homes without water or electricity. (next reference)

An earthquake struck Indonesia yesterday. (first reference)

Did **the** earthquake cause a lot of damage? (next reference)

A wildfire is a large destructive fire that spreads quickly over woods and forests. (no particular wildfire)

The wildfire burned from July 4 to September 2, 2007. (a particular wildfire)

E Complete the text with *a*, *an*, or *the*.

Mark Ritter, **(1)** _____ teacher in San Francisco, was in **(2)** _____ meeting when **(3)** _____ earthquake struck. He was high in **(4)** _____ office tower. **(5)** _____ tower began to move back and forth like **(6)** _____ boat in a storm. Mark worried that **(7)** _____ tower might collapse. He got under **(8)** _____ desk and waited for **(9)** _____ earthquake to stop. It did, but as he started to get out from under **(10)** _____ desk, another, stronger earthquake struck. **(11)** _____ tower shook wildly. It stopped after a few more minutes, and Mark got out from under **(12)** _____ desk and looked out the window. **(13)** _____ city was on fire, and **(14)** _____ tsunami was smashing into the port.



F Track 26 Listen to the responses. Then complete the questions with *a*, *an*, or *the*.

- 1 Are you prepared for _____ tsunami?
- 2 Can I go outside and play in _____ blizzard?
- 3 Do we need _____ emergency kit?
- 4 When did you last see _____ tornado?
- 5 How tall is _____ cathedral?
- 6 Is your house safe from _____ wildfire?
- 7 Are you ready for _____ hurricane?
- 8 What does _____ avalanche look like?

G Work in a group. One person says a sentence. Then each person in the group adds a word to make the sentence 'grow'. If someone makes a mistake, start again.

There's a volcano at the bottom of the sea.

There's a port above the volcano at the bottom of the sea.

There's a ship in the port above the volcano at the bottom of the sea ...