

At School

A: oh yeah! I am so excited!!!

B: What happened? Why are you so excited?

A: There is a typhoon approaching Hong Kong, schools may be suspended!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

C: Good! Let's go to my home and play video games together. Now we have an extra holiday, which is great news to us!!!!!!!!!!

B: Really? If there is no No.8 signal, we will have to go to detention class!

C: No worries! I have finished all my homework. If you have any questions, you can bring your homework to my home and do it together. After that, we can play video games overnight!

A: Good Idea! In Hong Kong typhoons are very common in summer. Take it easy guys! It is not a big deal!

C: Yes! You are right! Everyone in Hong Kong loves typhoons because it means we can have an extra holiday! Many people go to watch movies or play at home during typhoons! Let's have fun tomorrow. See you then.

A+B: OK, Wonderful!

B: But I haven't finished my Geography workbook. Can you teach me to do it?

C: Sure. I am an expert of Geography. It is an easy job!

A+B: See you!

C: Bye!

At Home

C: (watching the news report) Wow! This is great! This typhoon seems to be very powerful! Maybe we still don't need to go to school tomorrow.

B: But it is horrible. It has strong wind and heavy rain!

A: Wait! Don't you feel the building shaking? Is it because of the strong wind? It feels like playing amusement rides!

B: No! I am scared!

M: What are you talking about?

C: Mum! Look! This typhoon is very strong! I am so excited!

M: Stop! It is a natural hazard! It will cause loss of human life and property! It is not something funny!

B: Yes! Heavy rain often causes flooding and landslides. One of my friends who lives in Heng Fa Chuen said that their ground is flooded. They need to roll up their trousers when they go out.

M: Yes! Because strong winds may push seawater toward the shore and drown coastal facilities.

A: I know that the wind and rain will also damage infrastructure systems, water pipes and power transmission facilities. It may disrupt power and water supplies. Our daily lives will be seriously affected.

C: No!!!! If there is no electricity supply, we cannot play video games and I am afraid of darkness.

M: And some people still need to work during a typhoon. Landslide and flooding cause casualties. People may get hurt by falling objects, smashed windows and flooding.

C: Oh no! It is not a holiday! It is a natural hazard! We should stay in a safe place during typhoons.

At School

T: Good morning class!

A+B+C: Good morning Mr Hung.

T: Sit down please. (look at the students) Although all of you have already submitted your homework, you guys seem very tired. Why? All of you did not have to come to school yesterday.

C: Because of the terrible typhoon. Strong wind blows overnight! And my bed is near the window. I was so worried that something would suddenly break my window and hurt me. I just couldn't sleep last night.

B: And we played video games until midnight.

A: Stop! Don't tell Mr. Hung.

B: But why have there been so many powerful typhoons in recent years?

T: It is because of global warming!

B: I know, I know. Typhoons form in the tropical sea. When the sea surface temperature is over 26 °C, heat rises and forms a low pressure center. At the same time the surrounding air flows into the low pressure centre and rises. Water vapour will cool down and condense. During this process, it provides more energy for the low pressure system, and it will strengthen into a tropical cyclone.

T: Right! Ocean temperature rises because of global warming. The evaporation rate increases. More tropical cyclones will form due to higher sea surface temperature . And higher ocean temperature will provide more energy to the tropical cyclone.

A: Oh, no. What should we do to ease global warming?

T: There are three dimensions to combat climate change.

C: I know, I know! For individuals, we can save energy. For example, we should turn off the lights and air-conditioners when we leave the classroom. And when we go shopping, we should bring our own bags and choose local products instead of imported products because it produces less greenhouse gases during the production process.

A: At the same time, the government can develop renewable energy to replace fossil fuels. They also can enforce more environmentally-friendly laws to restrict the emission of greenhouse gases.

T: Very good. However, this is an international issue because the atmosphere has no boundary. Different countries can sign international agreements to solve the problem together.

B: Yes. I know that they organized the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai last year. This is the first time that they have mentioned the necessity to shift away from all kinds of fossil fuels.

T: Yes, so I hope all of you can take part in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

A+B+C: Sure!

T: Good! This is the end of the lesson. Stand up!

(End)