The Storm

They were prepared for everything...

... except...

crack! ⚡ boom!

The Storm!
The Morning of the Picnic

Aku is going to the beach. Later on, she’s going to meet her parents in the park for a picnic.

Kojo and Alberto

A couple of hours later... Efie and Kojo’s friends come over before the picnic. Kojo and his friend Alberto talk about boats.

Aku leaves. Kojo is proud of his daughter!

You know what we need, Alberto? We need a boat, right here in New York City.

Beautiful, Alberto!

Then we wouldn’t have to work in the restaurant. We could sell fish to the restaurant!

Or, maybe a tour boat.

What time are Alberto and Isabel coming over?

Exactly! We’ll take tourists to the Statue of Liberty.

That’s my girl, all right. Just like me... Born to swim. Born to fish!

I’m going to show this boat to Alberto. He told me he had a boat back home, too.

A fishing boat!

Bye. See you at the picnic!

What time did I say to meet?

Bye!
Efie and Isabel

Efie and Isabel change the topic. They talk about the picnic.

Let’s talk about the picnic, Isabel, do we have the food?

Do we have food?! Chicken, jollof rice, empanadas...

Kojo, do you have the lemonade and iced tea?

Lemonade, check. Tea, check.

Alberto, do you have the cake?

The cake? I made it myself!

We’ve got our meeting place, too. Aku knows where to meet us.

We are prepared for everything!

Weather Alert!

A warning about a serious storm comes on TV.

The TV announcer says: “An alert has been issued for a severe thunderstorm and possible tornado. These are very dangerous weather conditions. Stay indoors. Do not go outside.”

Efie and Isabel listen to the weather alert. Everyone is worried.

The cake? I made it myself!

Flood warnings... Hazardous weather conditions... That doesn’t sound good.

I’m worried about Aku.

I’m going to call her right now.

Aku’s phone rings. Efie goes to get it. She realizes something...

We've got our meeting place, too. Aku knows where to meet us.

That’s Aku’s phone!

She left it home. She forgot it.

Do we have food?!

Chicken, jollof rice, empanadas...

We've got our meeting place, too. Aku knows where to meet us.

We are prepared for everything!

Lemonade, check. Tea, check.
The Storm Is Coming
What should they do?

That looks really bad. I’m going to the beach to find Aku.

I’m going too.

But what about the storm? They said to stay indoors.

Kojo and Alberto decide to go look for Aku.

My daughter’s at the beach. Big waves… lightning… There’s a huge storm coming!

Efie’s phone rings. But the line goes dead…

Kojo? Kojo!
Nothing… The line went dead!

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

No lights…

No power!

The Storm Is Here
The storm is worse than expected. Efie and Isabel are waiting. They are very worried.

Where is she?

What if power lines fall?

That looks really bad. I’m going to the beach to find Aku.

The storm is worse than expected.

The storm is worse than expected.

Efie and Isabel are waiting. They are very worried.

Efie’s phone rings. But the line goes dead…

Kojo? Kojo!
Nothing… The line went dead!

……and the power goes out.

No lights…

No power!

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.

What if power lines fall?
Mrs. Chen

The doorbell rings. Efie jumps up. It’s Mrs. Chen, a neighbor.

Mrs. Chen?:

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

Mrs. Chen?

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

Mrs. Chen

They talk about preparing for emergencies.

Mrs. Chen sits at the kitchen table with Efie and Isabel. They talk about preparing for emergencies.

Mrs. Chen:

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

Efie:

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

Mrs. Chen:

Oh, what about flashlights and extra batteries?

Efie:

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

Mrs. Chen:

Yes, my husband always has extra batteries.

Efie:

When there was that big hurricane, I bought extra food and water. I got ready. But this storm was so sudden. There was no time!

Mrs. Chen:

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

Efie:

Efie remembers some information about getting ready for emergencies. Aku brought it home from school.

Efie:

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

Mrs. Chen:

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

Efie:

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

Mrs. Chen:

Yes, my husband always has extra batteries.

Efie:

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

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Efie:

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Mrs. Chen:

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

Efie:

Yes, my husband always has extra batteries.
A Few Months Ago

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...

What’s this?

Back to the Present...

Aku is still missing.

Why did I let her go?

It's not your fault. You didn't know there would be a terrible storm like this.

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

We're all in the same boat, together!

Kojo and Alberto Return

But where is Aku?

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

What happened?! Where is she?

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.

What's this?

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...

Why did I let her go?

It's not your fault. You didn't know there would be a terrible storm like this.

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

We're all in the same boat, together!
The Storm Is Over

The trees aren’t moving. The rain has stopped.

Look at all that water in the street!

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

Suddenly, the phone rings. It’s Aku!

Hello? Oh! Where are you?

Are you okay?

Aku Is Home!

Aku’s friend’s mother brings Aku home.

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?

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

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

What about our picnic?

We can spread a blanket right here on the floor.

It’s still wet outside.

We can spread a blanket right here on the floor.

Yes, Aku’s home, and our friends are all here!
Who We Are

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

1. I’m ____________. I am Aku’s mother. Kojo is my husband. Together, we organized a picnic with our friends. We made a checklist of things to bring. We are very prepared!

2. My name is ____________. I am Aku’s father. I’m very proud of her. She’s just like me—born to swim, born to fish!

3. My name is ____________. This morning I’m going to the beach. In the afternoon, I’m going to the park. I’m meeting my parents there for a picnic. It’s an action-packed summer day.

4. My name is ____________. I made empanadas for the picnic. Efie made jollof rice. My husband made a cake. We have a lot of food. I can’t wait for the picnic!

5. My name is ____________. It’s true… I made a cake, but now we may have to cancel the picnic. There’s an emergency weather alert. It sounds serious!

6. My name is ____________. I live in the same building as Efie, Kojo and Aku. When there’s an emergency, I check on my neighbors. We’re all in the same boat, together!

Here are some other characters in The Storm. Watch the show and meet them.
Lesson 2

What Happens?

Read the story on pages 1–12. Then complete the sentences. Follow the example.

1. Aku says goodbye to her parents and leaves for the beach.
2. Kojo and his friend Alberto talk about picnic.
3. Efie and her friend Isabel talk about the beach.

4. Suddenly, there’s a storm alert on TV.
5. The alert says, “Do not go outside.”
6. Efie and Kojo are worried about Aku. She was going to the beach.
7. They try to call Aku, but her phone returns in the bedroom. She forgot it!
8. Kojo and Alberto go to find her.
9. Efie and Isabel stay home in case Aku returns.

10. The storm is terrible. It’s worse than expected.
11. Efie and Isabel are waiting. They are very nervous.
12. Efie’s phone rings. It’s Kojo. But the line goes dead.

13. Then the comfort goes out.
14. A neighbor named Mrs. Chen comes over and the women talk about information for emergencies.
15. Efie remembers some information that Aku gave her about preparing for emergencies.
16. The women get ready each other.
17. Efie says, “I’m so glad I’m not alone.”
18. Mrs. Chen says, “We’re all in the same situation, together!”

19. Kojo returns, but finds Aku. He never got to the beach. There was too much wind and rain.
20. Finally, the storm ends, but Aku is still missing.
21. The sun is setting. It’s going to be dark soon.
22. Then, there’s a phone call.
23. It’s Aku. She’s okay. She didn’t go to the beach. She heard the line about the storm.
24. When Aku comes home, they have the comfort on the floor in the apartment.
**Where Is It?**

Find these things in the story. Write the page number(s). Follow the example.

1. Kojo's boat  
2. Alberto's boat  
3. The Statue of Liberty  
4. electric fan  
5. Severe Weather Alert  
6. radio  
7. Aku's cell phone  
8. lightning bolt  
9. flashlight  
10. Ready New York booklet

---

**Talking about Weather Emergencies**

Find the meaning. Follow the example.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. weather alert</th>
<th>5. Go Bag</th>
<th>9. Notify NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. hazardous</td>
<td>6. meeting place</td>
<td>10. blackout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. a flood</td>
<td>7. evacuate</td>
<td>11. hurricane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. emergency</td>
<td>8. shelter in place</td>
<td>12. tornado</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>water covering the streets or ground</td>
<td>when the electrical power goes out in a large area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>to leave a dangerous place in an emergency</td>
<td>a fast-moving cloud that spins around and can knock down trees, turn over cars and destroy buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>a serious or dangerous situation that requires action</td>
<td>to stay where you are and not go outside in an emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>a very dangerous storm that starts in the sea, with very strong winds (over 74 miles per hour) and heavy rain</td>
<td>a warning about dangerous weather conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>a free system to get alerts by text message or email</td>
<td>a place to meet your family in case you are separated in an emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>a bag with things you need in case you have to evacuate</td>
<td>dangerous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Talking about Emergencies with Mrs. Chen

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

Mrs. Chen: Okay. What can we do to be ready when they come back? First of all, do you have water?

Efie: Water…

Mrs. Chen: Yes, it’s good to have some (1) ____________ in case the water shuts off. Do you have any empty (2) ________________?

Isabel: And maybe we should (3) ________________ the bathtub. My mother always did that. Every time we had a big storm back home, she’d fill up the tub. For washing, for (4) ________________ the toilet.

Mrs. Chen: And what about (5) ________________? And extra batteries?

Efie: Yes, my husband keeps extra (6) ________________ in the refrigerator. He says they last longer.


Isabel: When there was that big (7) ________________, I bought extra food and water. I got ready. But this storm was so sudden. There was no time!

Mrs. Chen: It pays to get ready to be (8) ________________ all the time. Every storm is different!

Talking about Emergencies with Aku

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

Efie: What’s this?

Aku: Oh, just some (1) ________________ they gave us about getting (2) ________________ for (3) ________________ … Go Bags, meeting places.

Efie: Go Bags?

Aku: Yeah, a Go Bag… A bag of stuff you need in case you have to (4) ________________. Look in the book.

Efie: Copies of (5) ________________ documents, addresses and phone numbers of family and friends, bottled (6) ________________, a flashlight, and a change of clothes.
Good Question!

The family and friends are talking about getting ready for emergencies. They ask each other questions to get ready. Follow the example.

Do you have extra water in case of an emergency?  
Did you buy a flashlight and batteries?  
Did you have copies of our important documents in a safe place?  
Do you have Efie’s and Kojo’s telephone numbers?  
Did you sign up for “Notify NYC”?  
Do you know where we should meet in case we are separated?

1. You are Mrs. Chen. Ask your neighbors if they have stored some water in case the water shuts off.  
   Do you have extra water in case of an emergency?  

2. You are Efie. Ask your daughter if she knows where to meet the family in case of an emergency.

3. You are Kojo. Ask your wife if she has copies of the family’s important documents in a safe place.

4. You are Aku. Ask your mom and dad if they have the free service to get text or email message alerts about emergencies.

5. You are Isabel. Ask your husband if he is prepared in case of a blackout.

6. You are Alberto. Ask your wife if she has contact information for friends who can help in case of an emergency.

What Can You Say?

What can you say? Follow the example.

1. You are a meteorologist. Tell people not to go outside in dangerous weather.  
   Stay indoors.

2. You are Isabel. Give advice about leaving a high-rise building in an emergency.

3. You are Aku. Tell your mom what to put in a Go Bag.

4. You are Efie. You are very glad that you are not by yourself.

5. You are Mrs. Chen. Say that everyone is in the same situation.

Say the words out loud—like actors on TV!

We're all in the same boat.  
Stay indoors.  
I'm so glad I'm not alone.  
Copies of important documents, phone numbers and addresses of family and friends, a flashlight, bottled water...

meteorologist = weatherperson
**What Can You Do?**

Match the problem with the solution. Follow the example.

**Problem**

1. You think you live in a hurricane evacuation zone but are not sure.

2. You don’t have an emergency plan.

3. You live on a high floor and can’t go down stairs easily.

4. You don’t know your neighbors.

5. You need to evacuate but you don’t have a place to stay overnight.

**Solution**

A

- Call 311.
  Say: I need to evacuate and I don’t have a place to stay overnight.
  Ask: Where is the nearest shelter?

B

- Introduce yourself to at least two neighbors.
  Say: My name is... I live in...

C

- Meet with family, friends or caregivers to make a plan.
- Get supplies for an emergency supply kit and a Go Bag.
- Call 311.
  Say: Can I get information about getting ready for an emergency?
- Go to www.nyc.gov/readyny to get information about making a plan.

D

- Call 311 or go to www.nyc.gov/knowyourzone to find out about your zone.

E

- In advance, find two people who can help move you in an emergency.

**What’s in Your Go Bag?**

Match the words with the picture. Follow the example.

- bottled water
- flashlight
- radio
- important documents
- notebook
- money
- glasses
- toothbrush
- batteries
- mask
- My Emergency Plan
- whistle
- first aid kit
- gloves
- toothpaste
- snack

1. first aid kit
2. glasses
3. notebook
4. money
5. mask
6. toothpaste
7. snack
8. first aid kit
9. gloves
10. toothpaste
11. money
12. toothbrush
13. batteries
14. notebook
15. glasses
16. first aid kit
Watch the Show
Who says it?

Watch The Storm. Listen carefully. Find out who says these lines.

Who says it?

1. “New York City is surrounded by water!” ________________
2. “There’s not a cloud in the sky.” ________________
3. “If you’re going out there to find Aku, I’m coming with you.” ________________
4. “This is no picnic, folks.” ________________
5. “I don’t know what I would do without you.” ________________
6. “Let’s call 311. They’ll have some good information.” ________________
7. “I’m okay. I mean, we’re okay!” ________________
8. “Batteries, flashlight... check, check!” ________________
9. “It’s good to be prepared, to have a plan.” ________________
10. “For a picnic... Or for a storm.” ________________
11. “In New York City, in times like these, we are all in the same boat.” ________________

Watch the Show
What’s going on?

What do you think is going on in these pictures?

Watch
We Speak nYC • The Storm
to find out what is going on.

Go to www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC
Tell the Story

Use these words to tell a friend about The Storm.

Find ten words related to emergencies.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

What You Can Do
To Get Ready for Emergencies

Eifie
Make a plan. Do it now! Talk to your family and friends about how to get ready. Write down names, addresses and telephone numbers of important people. Buy supplies. Make copies of important documents and keep them in a safe place!

Kojo
Choose a meeting place. Know where you will meet family, friends or caregivers after an emergency in case you can’t go home. Pick two places to meet: one outside your home and another outside your neighborhood.

Aku
Pack a Go Bag. Everyone should have a Go Bag—a bag of things you need in case you have to leave in a hurry—to evacuate. Look at the picture on page 24 to see what to put in your Go Bag.

Isabel
Put together an emergency supply kit. In some emergencies you can’t go outside to get what you need. You should keep enough food and water at home for at least three days. You should also have a flashlight and batteries. You need supplies for your health and for everyone in your family, too, including your pets!

Alberto
Get the information you need. There are many kinds of emergencies—weather, fire, health and other kinds. Go to www.nyc.gov/readyny to learn about each one. Sign up for “Notify NYC” to get alerts. Keep your phone charged. And get a radio with batteries in case the power goes out.

Mrs. Chen
Create an emergency support group. You don’t need to be alone in an emergency. Ask at least two people to be in your group: family, friends, neighbors, caregivers or coworkers. Remember, you will help each other in emergencies.

Become A Leader!

Help your community prepare for an emergency. Join the New York City Citizen Corps Council and learn about volunteer opportunities and how you can help. Go to nyc.gov/citizencorps or call 311 to find out more.

Word picture: www.wordle.net/
# Dictionary: Translation of Key Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Español</th>
<th>中文</th>
<th>Русский</th>
<th>বাংলা</th>
<th>العربية</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. an alert</td>
<td>una alerta</td>
<td>警报</td>
<td>тревога</td>
<td>সতর্কবার্তা</td>
<td>خبر</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. a blackout</td>
<td>un apagón</td>
<td>停电</td>
<td>отключение электроэнергии</td>
<td>বিকৃতি বিবল্যেট</td>
<td>إيقاف الالتباس الكهربائي</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. evacuate</td>
<td>evacuar</td>
<td>撤离</td>
<td>эвакуироваться</td>
<td>স্থানান্তরিত করা</td>
<td>الإخلاء</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. evacuation zone</td>
<td>zona de evacuación</td>
<td>疏散区</td>
<td>зона эвакуации</td>
<td>দুর্যোগের সময় স্থানান্তর</td>
<td>منطقة الإخلاء</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. emergency</td>
<td>emergencia</td>
<td>紧急事故</td>
<td>чрезвычайная ситуация</td>
<td>আপ্তকালীন অবস্থা</td>
<td>طوارئ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. flashlight and batteries</td>
<td>linterna y baterías o pilas</td>
<td>手电筒和电池</td>
<td>фонарик и батарейки</td>
<td>টার্ট এ বাটারী</td>
<td>للنصاب الحمضي والبطاريات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. a flood</td>
<td>una inundación</td>
<td>洪水或水灾</td>
<td>наводнение</td>
<td>বন্যা</td>
<td>الفيضان</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. get ready</td>
<td>prepararse</td>
<td>做好准备</td>
<td>приготовьтесь, подготовьтесь</td>
<td>প্রস্তুত খানন</td>
<td>استعنوا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. hurricane</td>
<td>huracán</td>
<td>飓风</td>
<td>ураган</td>
<td>ফুরধিীড়</td>
<td>الإعصار</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM)</td>
<td>Oficina para el Manejo de Emergencias de la Ciudad de Nueva York</td>
<td>纽约市应急管理办公室</td>
<td>Управление по чрезвычайным ситуациям г. Нью-Йорка</td>
<td>নিউ ইয়র্ক শহর অধিদপ্তর উপার্জন</td>
<td>مكتب إدارة الطوارئ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. a shelter</td>
<td>un refugio</td>
<td>避难所</td>
<td>убежище</td>
<td>নিরাপত্তা অষ্ঠায়</td>
<td>ملجأ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Go to [www.nyc.gov/We SpeakNYC](http://www.nyc.gov/We SpeakNYC) to learn more.
What You Can Do
To Learn More English

Get together with friends who are learning English, too. Watch We Speak NYC together. Do the exercises together.

Read the story out loud with a friend—like actors on TV! It’s a good way to learn.

Go to your local public library. To find the nearest library, call 311 or go to www.nyp.org, www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org or www.queenslibrary.org.

If you have a high school diploma and want to improve your English and start college, go to www.clip.cuny.edu or www.cuny.edu.

Make a list of words and expressions you learned from The Storm.

Join a free conversation group to practice English and talk about preparing for emergencies and other important topics. For more information about where you can join a conversation group, go to the “We Speak NYC” website: www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC.

Answers

Pages 13-14 [Who We Are]
1. Efie
2. Kojo
3. Aku
4. Isabel
5. Alberto
6. Mrs. Chen

Pages 15-16 [What Happens?]
1. beach
2. boats
3. picnic
4. storm alert
5. Stay indoors
6. worried about
7. rings
8. find
9. returns
10. terrible
11. nervous
12. line
13. power
14. getting ready
15. information
16. comfort
17. alone
18. boat
19. without
20. missing
21. dark
22. call
23. warning
24. picnic

Page 17 [Where Is It?]
1. page 1
2. page 2
3. page 2
4. pages 3, 8, 9, 11
5. page 4
6. page 4
7. page 4
8. page 6
9. page 8
10. page 9

Page 18 [Talking about Weather Emergencies]
1. a warning about dangerous conditions
2. dangerous
3. water covering the streets or ground
4. a serious or dangerous situation that requires action
5. a bag with things you need in case you have to evacuate

Page 19 [Talking about Emergencies with Mrs. Chen]
1. in case
2. containers
3. fill
4. flushing
5. flashlights
6. batteries
7. hurricane
8. prepared

Page 20 [Talking about Emergencies with Aku]
1. information
2. ready
3. emergencies
4. evacuate
5. important
6. water

Page 21 [Good Question]
1. Do you have extra water in case of an emergency?
2. Do you know where we should meet in case we are separated?
3. Do you have copies of our important documents in a safe place?
4. Did you sign up for “Notify NYC”?
5. Did you buy a flashlight and batteries?
6. Do you have Efie’s and Kojo’s telephone numbers?

Page 22 [What Can You Say?]
1. Stay indoors.
2. Never get in an elevator in an emergency!
3. Copies of important documents, phone numbers and addresses of family and friends, a flashlight, bottled water...
4. I’m so glad I’m not alone.
5. We’re all in the same boat.

Page 23 [What Can You Do?]
1. first aid kit
2. glasses
3. notebook
4. important documents
5. money
6. My Emergency Plan
7. mask
8. gloves
9. radio
10. batteries
11. flashlight
12. whistle
13. bottled water
14. snack
15. toothbrush

Page 24 [What’s in Your Go Bag?]
1. first aid kit
2. glasses
3. notebook
4. important documents
5. money
6. My Emergency Plan
7. mask
8. gloves
9. radio
10. batteries
11. flashlight
12. whistle
13. bottled water
14. snack
15. toothbrush

Page 25 [Watch the Show: Who Says It?]
1. Kojo
2. Alberto
3. Efie
4. Announcer
5. Efie
6. Mrs. Chen
7. Sumi
8. Mrs. Chen
9. Efie
10. Isabel
11. Kojo

Page 27 [Tell the Story]
There are other correct answers.

Emergency words: safe, thunderstorm, blackout, fire, information, dangerous, 311, shelter, warning, batteries
Watch
Read
Learn

www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC