

disaster[di'zɑːstə] *n*

бедствие, несчастье

political disaster - политическая катастрофа

public disaster - народное бедствие

railway disaster - железнодорожная катастрофа

to scent disaster - чують (надвигающуюся) беду

to reach disaster proportions - достичь катастрофических масштабов

to bring disaster upon smb. - накликасть беду на кого-л., принести кому-л. несчастье

to meet with /to suffer/ disaster - попасть в беду

the trip turned into an unqualified disaster - поездка обернулась форменной катастрофой

he is courting /heading for/ disaster - он идёт навстречу гибели, его ждёт неминуемая катастрофа/гибель/

disaster

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

dis-as-ter [disaster disasters] *BrE* [di'zɑːstə(j)] ^m *NAmE* [di'zæstər] ^m **noun****1. countable** an unexpected event, such as a very bad accident, a flood or a fire, that kills a lot of people or causes a lot of damage**Syn:** ↑catastrophe

- an **air disaster**
- environmental disasters
- Thousands died in the disaster.
- a **natural disaster** (= one that is caused by nature)

2. countable, uncountable a very bad situation that causes problems

- Losing your job doesn't have to be such a disaster.
- **Disaster struck** when the wheel came off.
- financial disaster
- The discovery of the disease among sheep spells financial disaster for farmers.
- Letting her organize the party is a **recipe for disaster** (= something that is likely to go badly wrong).

3. countable, uncountable (informal) a complete failure

- As a teacher, he's a disaster.
- The play's first night was a total disaster.

see an accident/a disaster waiting to happen **at** ↑wait *v.*Word Origin:late 16th cent.: from Italian **disastro** 'ill-starred event', from **dis-** (expressing negation) + **astro** 'star' (from Latin **astrum**).Thesaurus:**disaster** *noun***1. C, U**

- Thousands died in the disaster.

catastrophe • • **tragedy** • • **calamity** • • **crisis** • • **emergency** •a **major** disaster/catastrophe/tragedy/calamity/crisis/emergency**cause** a disaster/catastrophe/tragedy/crisis**bring** disaster/catastrophe/tragedy/calamity**Disaster or catastrophe?** Use either with words such as **nuclear**, **environmental** and **economic**; use **disaster** for a famous event in which people were killed

- the Chernobyl disaster

2. C, U

- The play's first night was a total disaster.

failure • • **catastrophe** • • **debacle** • • **disappointment** • |informal **fiasco** • • **flop** • • **washout** • • **let-down** •**Opp: success**a disaster/failure/catastrophe/disappointment/let-down **for sb**a **total** disaster/failure/catastrophe/fiasco/flop/washout**prove** a disaster/failure/disappointment/fiasco/flop/let-downExample Bank:

- Any one of these nuclear plants may be a disaster waiting to happen.
- Buying that house turned out to be a financial disaster.
- Europe's worst environmental disaster is unfolding at this very moment.
- Everyone had the feeling that disaster was imminent.
- Everything was going fine. Then, without warning, disaster struck.
- He called for a full investigation to help prevent future disasters.
- High-rise buildings proved a social disaster.
- His prediction was not heeded, and disaster ensued.
- Hurricane Katrina was the costliest natural disaster in history.
- I am a walking disaster when it comes to paperwork.
- I can already foresee the night turning into a total disaster.
- In a disaster everyone needs to keep calm.
- In the aftermath of the disaster people were too shocked to give a clear picture of what had happened.
- In the last match of the series England were facing disaster.

- Independent analysts in the market predicted disaster.
- It became a financial disaster scenario.
- It seemed that nothing could prevent the impending disaster.
- It was a miracle any of the passengers or crew survived the disaster.
- It was a miracle any of the passengers or crew survived the worst air disaster in Portugal for 20 years.
- It would spell certain economic disaster for our local community.
- It's courting disaster to go into the mountains without proper weatherproof clothing.
- Just one mistake can mean disaster.
- Letting her organize the party is a recipe for disaster.
- No government could have handled a disaster of this magnitude effectively.
- One person's mistakes can bring disaster to someone else.
- Only rescue workers are allowed into the disaster area.
- The area has been declared a disaster zone.
- The disaster relief operation will continue over the summer.
- The drought spelled economic disaster for the country.
- The festival ended up being a financial disaster for the promoters.
- The majority of enterprises aren't spending very much on disaster recovery at all.
- The play was a complete disaster from beginning to end.
- The shirt was a definite fashion disaster.
- The show ended in disaster when the tent collapsed.
- Their departure spells social disaster for the region.
- There are many who have suffered personal disasters but managed to rebuild their lives.
- They had no real experience in disaster management.
- This is an unprecedented natural disaster.
- This morning I signed a disaster declaration for the state.
- We could all see that disaster loomed for the company.
- We have a disaster plan in place before every mission.
- What can be done to ward off environmental disaster?
- Will we ever find out why the disaster occurred?
- a Hollywood disaster movie
- a near disaster in the city centre
- an organization which provides help for the victims of the disaster
- attempts to find out what caused the disaster
- communities affected by disasters
- counties eligible for federal disaster assistance
- earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters
- fears of a nuclear disaster
- finding out why the disaster occurred
- his firm belief that the whole world was heading for disaster
- providing help for the victims of the disaster
- the biggest disaster in British mining history
- the governor's disaster fund
- the greatest electoral disaster of the century
- the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness
- the unfolding storm disaster in the South
- the unforeseen disaster that has just been thrust upon us
- the world's worst humanitarian disaster
- Although there was always the possibility of flooding, the Nile seldom brought disaster to Egypt.
- Disaster struck when the wheel came off.
- He was a competent accountant, but as a manager he's a disaster.
- Losing your job doesn't have to be such a disaster.
- Such environmental disasters will become increasingly frequent
- The discovery of the disease among sheep spells disaster for farmers.
- The play's first night was a total disaster.
- They were involved in the 2001 ferry disaster.
- They will not insure you against a natural disaster.

disaster

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

disaster **S3 W3** /dɪˈzɑːstə/\$ dɪˈzæstər/ *BrE* " *AmE* " *noun* [uncountable and countable]

[Word Family: *noun*: ↑disaster; *adverb*: ↑disastrously; *adjective*: ↑disastrous]

[Date: 1500-1600; Language: French; Origin: désastre, from Italian disastro, from astro 'star' (from the idea of luck coming from the stars)]

1. a sudden event such as a flood, storm, or accident which causes great damage or suffering ⇒ **catastrophe**:

" One hundred and twenty people died in China's worst air disaster.

" the economic consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

disaster for

" The oil spill was a disaster for Alaskan sea animals.

" The 1987 hurricane was the worst natural disaster to hit England for decades.

" Their expedition nearly ended in disaster, when one of the climbers slid off the mountain.

The drought could spell disaster for wildlife.

Disaster struck when two men were killed during their parachute jumps.

The peace process was on the brink of disaster.

Luckily the pilot saw the other plane just in time, and a disaster was narrowly averted.

2. something that is very bad or a failure, especially when this is very annoying or disappointing

something is a complete/total/disaster

Because of the weather, the parade was a total disaster.

The evening was an unmitigated disaster (=a complete failure).

disaster for

The cuts in funding will be a disaster for the schools.

Five small boys on skis is a recipe for disaster (=is very likely to end badly).

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COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 1)

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + disaster

- **a natural disaster** (=caused by nature) In recent years there has been an increase in weather-related natural disasters.
- **an ecological/environmental disaster** (=causing great damage to nature) This region is facing an ecological disaster as a result of toxic waste.
- **an air/rail disaster** (=an air or rail accident) The crash was the worst rail disaster in Pakistan's history.
- **a nuclear disaster** (=an accident involving nuclear power or weapons) A conflict could get out of hand and degenerate into nuclear disaster.
- **a terrible disaster** It was a terrible disaster which carried away a large part of the hillside.

verbs

- **a disaster strikes** (=happens suddenly) Congress often gives millions of dollars in foreign aid when natural disasters strike.
- **prevent/avert a disaster** They called for an international programme to prevent the disaster happening again.

disaster + NOUN

- **a disaster area/zone** (=area where a disaster has happened) Military planes flew food supplies to the disaster area.
- **disaster relief** (=money, food, clothes etc for people in a disaster area) an emergency appeal for disaster relief
- **a disaster victim** (=someone who is suffering because of a disaster) Aid is being given to the disaster victims.

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COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

adjectives

- **a complete/total disaster** Last Saturday's game was a complete disaster for our team.
- **a financial/economic/military etc disaster** The project was a financial disaster.
- **a national disaster** The Labour Party called the new government 'a national disaster'.
- **a personal disaster** I'd taken some professional risks and survived a few personal disasters.
- **an unmitigated disaster** (=a complete failure) The \$24,000,000 movie was an unmitigated disaster.
- **a potential disaster** (=one that could happen) Always save a backup copy of your work to avoid potential disasters.
- **an impending disaster** (=one that is going to happen soon) She had a sense of impending disaster.

verbs

- **end in disaster** By the late 1990s his career had ended in disaster.
- **spell disaster** (=cause something to end badly or fail) Bad luck and the recession spelt disaster for her business.

phrases

- **be on the brink of disaster** (=be almost ending in a very bad way) Once again the peace process was on the brink of disaster.
- **be a recipe for disaster** (=be a situation that is very likely to end badly) If you get married too young, it's a recipe for disaster.
- **something is a disaster waiting to happen** (=used to say that something is bad and will fail) The government's educational reforms are a disaster waiting to happen.

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THESAURUS

- **disaster** a sudden event such as an accident, or a natural event such as a flood or storm, which causes great damage or suffering: 200 people died in the train disaster. | The earthquake was the worst natural disaster to hit India for over 50 years.
- **catastrophe** a terrible event in which there is a lot of destruction, damage, suffering, or death over a wide area of the world: A large comet hitting the earth would be a catastrophe. | We don't want another nuclear catastrophe like Chernobyl. | Scientists say that the oil spill is an ecological catastrophe.
- **tragedy** a very sad event, that shocks people because it involves death: It was a tragedy that he died so young. | the AIDS tragedy in Africa
- **debacle** an event or situation that is a complete failure and is very embarrassing: The opening ceremony turned into a debacle. | The team is hoping to do better this game, after last week's debacle against the Chicago Bears.

natural disasters

- **earthquake** a sudden shaking of the earth's surface that often causes a lot of damage: A powerful earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. | It was the biggest earthquake to hit the Pacific Northwest for 52 years.
- **flood** a very large amount of water that covers an area that is usually dry: Bangladesh has been hit by a series of devastating floods (=very bad floods). | The crisis began with floods that covered one third of the countryside.
- **drought** a long period of dry weather when there is not enough water for plants and animals to live: The country experienced its worst drought this century. | In East Africa, three years of drought have left 10 million people in urgent need of food and water.
- **famine** a situation in which a large number of people have little or no food for a long time and many people die: Poor harvests led to famine. | 4,000,000 people are threatened by famine in northern Ethiopia.
- **hurricane** a storm that has very strong fast winds and that moves over water – used about storms in the North Atlantic Ocean:

extreme weather such as hurricanes | Hurricane Andrew left southern Florida in ruins.

▪ **typhoon** a violent tropical storm – used about storms in the Western Pacific Ocean: A typhoon has hit the Philippines, lifting roofs off houses and uprooting trees.

▪ **tsunami** a very large wave, caused by extreme conditions such as an earthquake, which can cause a lot of damage when it reaches land: Thousands of people were killed in the tsunami. | Many Pacific earthquakes have generated tsunamis.

disaster

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