

What sustains you?

LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 10
Learning Object 2: *The career expo*

Exercise 1

- 1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas from each paragraph.**

Answers:

Paragraph 1

There has been a lot done to help Japan since the 2011 tsunami.

Paragraph 2

Radioactive fallout is still a big problem, especially for rice farmers.

Paragraph 3

It could be a long time before the soil is healthy enough to grow rice again. This is a dire situation for Japan.

Paragraph 4

'Sister' relationships help people get to know each other better. Japan's relationship with Queensland meant that Japan donated huge sums of money to help in the clean-up and rebuilding after the 2011 floods.

Paragraph 5

Townsville has a strong relationship with Iwaki City, and so can help Iwaki in a meaningful way.

Paragraph 6

Fukushima farmers are conducting a rice-growing trial on some land south of Townsville.

Paragraph 7

Connections are our life.

- 1.2 Were there particular words or phrases you found difficult to understand? What strategies did you use to understand these words or phrases, or to understand the text as a whole, despite not being sure what they meant?**

Sample answer:

There are several strategies that I use to understand words or phrases that are difficult to understand. First of all, I would look at the context and try to see if I can understand the words preceding or following that difficult word or phrase. For example, the words *kesinambungan* and *menyinandungkan* that are used in the last paragraph. I had never heard these two words but guessed that the two must have the same base word. To find the base word I looked at the word *kesinambungan* and could see that it has the *ke~...~an* affixes whereas *menyinandungkan* is a verb with the *meN~...~kan* affixes. I can therefore conclude that the base word is *sinambung*, but before I looked it up in the dictionary, I tried to understand its meaning from the context first. The word that follows *kesinambungan* is *perekonomian*, which I understood to mean 'economies'. The word that precedes *menyinandungkan* is *usaha* and the word that follows it is *hubungan*. I know their meaning but I still cannot guess the meaning of these two new words. I then decided to use an online dictionary and look up the word *sinambung* and found that it means 'to sustain'.

- 1.3 When (approximately) did 'sister' relationships start between Japanese and Queensland schools, cities and towns?**

Answer:

'Sister' relationships started in Queensland in the early 1980s.

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1.4 When will it be possible for Fukushima farmers to grow rice again?

Answer:

Some people say the land will be usable in 30 years, others say it will not be safe to grow crops in the exclusion zone for 300 years.

1.5 Do you think the relationship between Japan and Queensland is a sustainable one? What contributes to the sustainability of something?

Answer:

Yes. It seems that both countries actually do things to help their relationship (not just talk about it). Things like relationships can be sustainable if the people (or countries) involved are prepared to give and take.

1.6 How do you think the actions of Queensland (people and government), and Japan (people and government) helped foster their relationship?

Answer:

I think that both governments and their people helped to foster their relationship by responding in practical ways when each of them was in trouble, and by making their help long-lasting.

Exercise 2

2.1 There are various ways to interpret this saying. Write at least two different ways it could be interpreted, or ways you have heard it used.

Answer:

A friend, (who is there for you when you are) in need, is indeed a true friend.

A friend, (who needs you), is indeed a true friend.

2.2 Why do you think the author has chosen this as the title of their article? Of the many meanings of the proverb, which one (or ones) do you think they are calling on?

Answer:

I think the author has chosen this as the title of their article because it is a familiar proverb that strongly relates to the theme of the article, that is, helping people who are going through difficult times.

I think they are using the proverb to mean that a friend who is there to help when you are in need is a true friend.

2.3 Have you ever been a 'friend in need' or a 'friend indeed' (or even a friend in deed!)? Give details of an action or actions you have performed for someone else when they were having difficulties.

Sample answer:

I like to perform small actions for my friends. For example, last week one of my friends forgot her lunch, so I shared mine with her.

There aren't always opportunities to perform more significant acts of friendship in your everyday life, but I have contributed to the Indigenous Literacy Project, and donated my time helping out in a soup kitchen near my home.

Probably the biggest thing I have personally done was during the Brisbane floods in 2011. Many of the houses in our street were affected by the flood, including my best friend's house two doors up. I helped out with the mud army, but also, because my friend's room was flooded and she lost most of her belongings, I gave her make-up, clothes, a spare school uniform, and lots of other things. I also used my pocket money to buy her a second-hand MP3 player because she really loves music.

2.4 In the situation you described in your answer to Exercise 2.3, do you think that the offer of help that you made would have been different if the people or person in need were from Indonesia? Give reasons for your answer.

I think the offer of help that I made would be the same if the people in need were from Indonesia or any other country. In 2004, parts of Indonesia were badly hit by a tsunami that destroyed most of the town of Aceh. After the tsunami, students in my school raised money and collected non-perishable food and clothing, which we donated to the Red Cross appeal for the Aceh tsunami victims.

My school has a sister-school relationship with a school in Central Java. After the 2007 earthquake, and the subsequent fire, the school was badly damaged and had lost most of its resources. If I had been in Indonesia at the time, I would have helped to organise fund-raising activities to repair the school and to buy textbooks. I could also have visited the region and helped in the *dapur umum*, or emergency disaster relief kitchen.