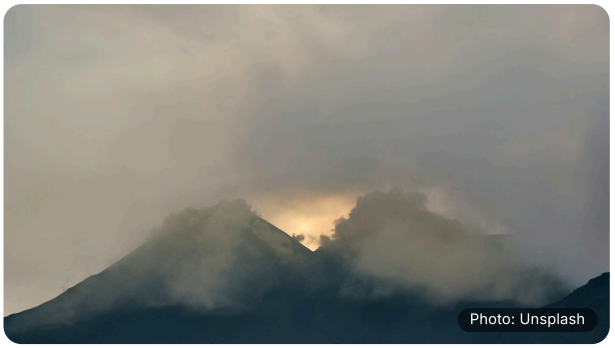
Volcano eruption leaves 170,000 passengers stranded in Indonesia

LEVEL B1


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever had a flight delayed or cancelled? What happened?
2. What safety steps should people take during a volcano eruption?
3. How can airlines help passengers when plans change suddenly?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

stranded
unable to leave a place because of a problem or lack of transport

ash
fine powder from a volcano that can harm engines and lungs

suspend
to stop something for a short time and plan to restart it later

eruption
when a volcano pushes out ash, gas, and lava

seismic
related to movements in the earth that cause shaking

refund
money returned to a customer after a service is not provided

tsunami
a very large sea wave usually caused by an earthquake or volcano

meteorological
related to weather and the study of the atmosphere

III. READING

Around 170,000 airline passengers are stranded in Indonesia after ash from Anak Krakatau led authorities to suspend operations at eight airports. Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport was the first to close on Sunday morning after ash was detected in nearby airspace.

The transport ministry said 1,558 flights were delayed, and airports would stay shut until midnight. Anak Krakatau began erupting late on Friday, with continuous seismic activity, lava fountains and loud booms. Two more eruptions followed early on Sunday.

Transport Minister Dudy Purwagandhi expanded closures as tests showed ash spreading towards West Java, and he urged airlines to speed up refunds and give clear updates to passengers. Indonesia's meteorological agency BMKG reported ash as high as 20,000ft over Java and 50,000ft towards Sumatra.

There is no tsunami warning. People in affected areas were told to stay indoors and wear masks. The volcano sits in the Sunda Strait and collapsed in 2018, causing a deadly tsunami.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Volcano eruption leaves 170,000 passengers...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many passengers were stranded in Indonesia?
2. How many airports closed due to the ash?
3. Which airport closed first, and on which day?
4. How many flights were delayed, and until when were airports shut?
5. What safety advice was given to people in affected areas?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Should airports close quickly when ash is detected? Why or why not?
2. How should airlines handle refunds and rebooking after disruptions?
3. What information do travellers most need during an eruption?
4. How can cities reduce health risks from ash in the air?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Connecting words

Connecting words link ideas in a sentence: use words like because, so, and, but to show cause, result, addition or contrast. Use the connector that fits the meaning between the clauses.

"Flights were delayed **because** *ash spread in the air."*

"Anak Krakatau began erupting on Friday, **and** *two more eruptions followed."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

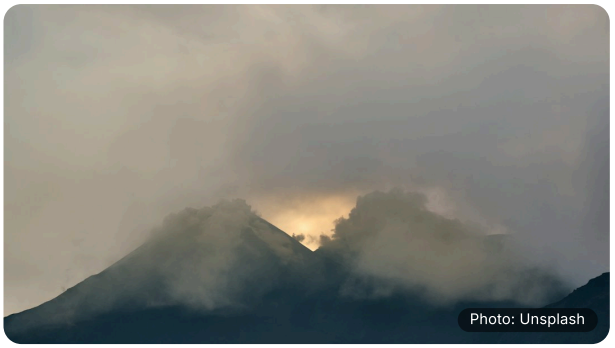
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Many flights are late, (but / so) there is no tsunami warning. _____
2. Airports closed, (although / so) many flights were delayed. _____
3. People were told to stay indoors (but / and) wear masks. _____
4. The minister urged refunds (because / so) passengers were stranded. _____
5. Anak Krakatau collapsed in 2018, (so / because) it caused a tsunami. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach place names (Soekarno-Hatta, West Java, Sunda Strait) and check numbers for 1,558 and altitudes.
- During reading, set a gist task first (what happened and where), then scan for numbers and key names.
- Differentiate by giving stronger students a short summary task, while others underline connecting words (after, as, and).

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Start with a quick poll, then pair students with opposing views to compare reasons.
2. Elicit steps from the text first (refunds, updates), then add students' own experiences.
3. Board three info types (safety, timing, routes) and ask pairs to prioritise them.
4. Have groups list simple measures, then share one practical idea each with a why.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, draft a 70-word airport announcement updating passengers about closures and refunds.

Presentation: In small groups, prepare a 1-minute safety briefing for residents during ashfall, then present it.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

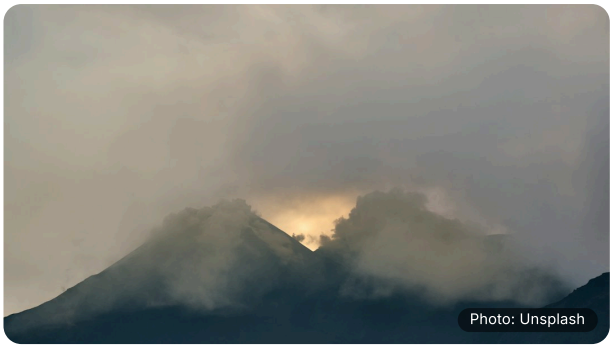
Grammar exercise: Connecting words

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How many passengers were stranded in Indonesia?
   About 170,000 passengers.
2. How many airports closed due to the ash?
   Eight airports.
3. Which airport closed first, and on which day?
   Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, on Sunday.
4. How many flights were delayed, and until when were airports shut?
   1,558 flights, and closures were until midnight.
5. What safety advice was given to people in affected areas?
   Stay indoors and wear masks.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Connecting words link ideas in a sentence: use words like because, so, and, but to show cause, result, addition or contrast. Use the connector that fits the meaning between the clauses. (Examples constructed.)

"Flights were delayed **because** *ash spread in the air."*

"Anak Krakatau began erupting on Friday, **and** *two more eruptions followed."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Many flights are late, (but / so) there is no tsunami warning. **but**
2. Airports closed, (although / so) many flights were delayed. **so**
3. People were told to stay indoors (but / and) wear masks. **and**
4. The minister urged refunds (because / so) passengers were stranded. **because**
5. Anak Krakatau collapsed in 2018, (so / because) it caused a tsunami. **so**