

Sample Toastmasters Speech

Shaking! Huge waves! Devastation! Destruction! All of this and much more happens when a tsunami occurs. You may be wondering what a tsunami is. I know I did! Today I am going to tell you what a tsunami is, how a tsunami happens, and the damage a tsunami can cause.

First, what is this strange sounding word anyway? Tsunami is spelled tsunami, and it comes from the Japanese word for harbor (tsu) and wave (nami). This makes sense because a tsunami is a huge sea wave, usually in the ocean. It often looks like a tidal wave with a long wavelength and a height of up to one hundred feet. That's tall! Interestingly, tsunamis can be short and last only minutes or be long and last for hours. Tsunamis often happen in the Pacific Ocean with waves as fast as fifty miles per hour.

Now that we know what a tsunami is, we should find out how they happen. Tsunamis are most often caused by earthquakes. In fact, 80% of the time a tsunami happens, it is because of an underwater earthquake. This means that rocks move past each other suddenly where the tectonic plates meet under the earth's crust. However, sometimes tsunamis happen as a result of volcanic eruptions or even underwater explosions due to nuclear testing. Therefore, after the earthquake or eruption occurs, the waves start to move toward the coast.

Finally, tsunamis cause a lot of damage. As you can imagine, waves one hundred feet high and moving at fifty miles an hour are very dangerous. As a matter of fact, tsunamis cause vast destruction and devastation to the places they hit. Tsunamis cause damage by the smashing force of the water at such a high speed. All of this water hitting the coast smashes buildings, trees, and everything in its path. Therefore, the large amount of water and debris being pushed by the water causes further damage to take place on land. For example, many people are

familiar with the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake that caused a tsunami that killed 290,000 people from fourteen different countries. This earthquake was measured at 9.3 out of 10 on the Richter scale which means all that earth movement caused a colossal tsunami. It lasted between eight and ten minutes and left countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand with many casualties and much destruction.

In conclusion, a tsunami is a large wave usually caused by an underwater earthquake. Also, the devastation and destruction of a tsunami is enormous. To sum up, you know what a tsunami is, how it occurs, and the damage it causes. You'll never be stumped by this unusual word again!