

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210114-fukui-prefecture.html>

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Record levels of snowfall made the going tough for hundreds of motorists in Japan earlier this week. Blizzards, snowdrifts and frozen roads left 200 cars stranded on a highway in Fukui Prefecture, along the Sea of Japan. This spurred the manager of a branch of a local Chinese restaurant, Gyoza Ohsho, to get going. Keiichi Iwatani, 39, decided to feed those faced with spending the night in sub-zero temperatures. He delivered hundreds of gyoza dumplings, fried rice and crab omelettes to weary, anxious and snowbound drivers. Seven employees helped him to deliver the provisions on foot throughout the night to 300 hungry and relieved people.

Mr Iwatani talked about his relief efforts to the Mainichi newspaper. He said he saw the snow accumulating and knew there would be problems. He said similar adverse weather hit in 2018 and the snow stopped him from getting to work. He said: "I regretted not being able to help out three years ago. I'm happy that many people appreciated our efforts last night." He added: "I wanted to keep drivers warm, even for just a bit." Many drivers were appreciative of his efforts. Yuki Yamashita, 23, feared the worst when she got stuck in the snow. She said when Ishitani appeared, he restored her faith in humanity. A fellow driver shared some *Habutae mochi* - a traditional Fukui rice confection - with her to reinforce that faith.

Sources: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210112/p2a/00m/0na/020000c>
<https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/01/38848016de82-domestic-violence-cases-in-japan-hit-record-high-in-fy-2020.html>
<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/01/10/national/motorists-stranded-winter-weather/>

WARM-UPS

1. SNOW: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about snow. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

tough / snowfall / motorists / blizzard / highway / temperatures / dumplings / hungry relief efforts / adverse weather / happy / faith / humanity / traditional / confection

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. HELP: Students A **strongly** believe it is our duty to help anyone in need; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. SURVIVAL: What should people do in these situations? How would you feel? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How To Survive	How You'd Feel
Trapped in blizzards		
Prolonged heat wave		
Floods		
Hurricane / Typhoon		
Sub-zero temperatures		
Wildfires		

5. TOUGH: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "tough". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. ADVERSE WEATHER: Rank these with your partner. Put the worst weather at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Blizzards
- Torrential rain
- Strong wind
- Hail
- Heat waves
- Tornadoes
- Dust storms
- Drought

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. the tough | a. Supplies of food, drink, or equipment, especially for a journey. |
| 2. blizzard | b. A group of people able to endure hardship or pain. |
| 3. snowdrift | c. Gave an incentive or encouragement to someone. |
| 4. stranded | d. A severe snowstorm with high winds and low visibility. |
| 5. spurred | e. Stuck somewhere without the means to move from somewhere. |
| 6. weary | f. A bank of deep snow piled up and made higher by the wind. |
| 7. provisions | g. Feeling or showing tiredness, especially as a result of excessive exertion or lack of sleep. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. relief | h. A feeling of reassurance and relaxation following release from worry or stress. |
| 9. accumulating | i. Strengthen an existing feeling, idea, or habit. |
| 10. adverse | j. Gathering together or acquiring an increasing number or quantity of. |
| 11. appreciated | k. A dish or delicacy made with sweet ingredients. |
| 12. restored | l. Preventing success or development; harmful; unfavorable. |
| 13. confection | m. Was very grateful for something or someone; recognized the full worth of. |
| 14. reinforce | n. Returned someone or something to a former condition, place, or position. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210114-fukui-prefecture.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Blizzards left 200 cars stranded on a highway in Japan. **T / F**
- b. The owner of a Japanese restaurant made meals for stranded motorists. **T / F**
- c. A restaurant owner cooked crab omelettes for stranded motorists. **T / F**
- d. Volunteers helped 3,000 people trapped in their cars in the blizzard. **T / F**
- e. The restaurant manager also helped stranded motorists in 2018. **T / F**
- f. The manager is glad people appreciated his recent relief efforts. **T / F**
- g. A 23-year-old was very worried when she got stuck in the snow. **T / F**
- h. The 23-year-old received a traditional sweet from another motorist. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. tough | a. valued |
| 2. stranded | b. confronted by |
| 3. spurred | c. endeavours |
| 4. faced with | d. arduous |
| 5. provisions | e. belief |
| 6. efforts | f. stimulated |
| 7. appreciated | g. strengthen |
| 8. restored | h. helpless |
| 9. faith | i. reestablished |
| 10. reinforce | j. supplies |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. When the going gets tough, | a. efforts |
| 2. Record levels | b. snowbound drivers |
| 3. spending the night in | c. provisions on foot |
| 4. anxious and | d. of his efforts |
| 5. employees helped him to deliver the | e. of snowfall |
| 6. relief | f. in humanity |
| 7. similar adverse weather | g. the worst |
| 8. Many drivers were appreciative | h. the tough get going |
| 9. Yuki Yamashita, 23, feared | i. hit in 2018 |
| 10. he restored her faith | j. sub-zero temperatures |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210114-fukui-prefecture.html>

1. What happens to the tough when the going gets tough?
2. What stranded motorists besides snowdrifts and frozen roads?
3. Along which body of water were the motorists stranded?
4. How old is the restaurant manager?
5. What kind of omelettes did the restaurant manager cook?
6. What does the restaurant manager say he saw the snow doing?
7. When did similar adverse weather hit the area?
8. What does the article say many people appreciated?
9. What did Yuki Yamashita fear?
10. What did Mr Ishitani's efforts restore in Yuki Yamashita?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2101/210114-fukui-prefecture.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'dumpling' and 'snow'.

dumpling	snow

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• levels• 200• branch• faced• rice• 300	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• talked• hit• ago• warm• worst• traditional
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DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'dumpling'?
3. How tough are you?
4. Do the tough get going when the going gets tough?
5. What do you think of snow?
6. What would you do if you were stranded in a snowstorm?
7. What are the dangers of blizzards?
8. What do you think of Keiichi Iwatani's actions?
9. What help have you given people in need?
10. What advice do you have for people stuck in snow?

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DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'snow'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How does falling snow make you feel?
15. What's the most adverse weather you've experienced?
16. Who have you been appreciative of recently?
17. When was the last time you feared the worst?
18. When was the last time your faith in humanity was restored?
19. What do you know about Japanese confectionery?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Iwatani?