

Choose the best option for each blank.

Earthquakes are among the most destructive  
**(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ disasters. They usually occur without  
 any **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ warning and often result in a  
**(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ of life and the collapse of buildings. In  
 addition, earthquakes may cause **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 landslides or create gigantic tidal waves. Such a disaster  
 happened in 2004, when an earthquake **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_  
 the coast of Indonesia **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ a massive  
 tsunami that killed over 200,000 people.



*Collapse of a hotel during an  
 earthquake in El Salvador in  
 1986*

Earthquakes **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ mostly where the earth's  
 tectonic plates meet. Massive amounts of energy are  
**(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ when two plates push towards, pull  
 apart from or slide past each other. **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ millions happen every year there  
 are only a small number that **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ and very few that cause damage.

In many cases, an earthquake **(11)** \_\_\_\_\_ 30 to 60 seconds. There is hardly any  
 time to **(12)** \_\_\_\_\_ once the shaking starts. The brutal forces of an earthquake  
 start a **(13)** \_\_\_\_\_ chain reaction in a building's structure when it is shaken. A  
 building's height, **(14)** \_\_\_\_\_ and construction materials are significant  
**(15)** \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to its inhabitants surviving such a disaster.

<b>1</b>	naturalistic	natural	nature	native
<b>2</b>	ahead	former	past	prior
<b>3</b>	cost	damage	harm	loss
<b>4</b>	devastating	overwhelming	disturbing	shocking
<b>5</b>	of	off	on	at
<b>6</b>	generated	set	triggered	activated
<b>7</b>	occur	are occurring	occurred	are occurred
<b>8</b>	emitted	loosened	escaped	released
<b>9</b>	Although	In spite of	However	Nevertheless
<b>10</b>	are being felt	should be felt	must be felt	can be felt
<b>11</b>	keeps on	lasts	happens	remains
<b>12</b>	divert	discard	escape	abandon
<b>13</b>	dense	compound	difficult	complex
<b>14</b>	shape	figure	character	spirit
<b>15</b>	keys	factors	reasons	causes

## KEY

Earthquakes are among the most destructive **(1) natural** disasters. They usually occur without any **(2) prior** warning and often result in a **(3) loss** of life and the collapse of buildings. In addition, earthquakes may cause **(4) devastating** landslides or create gigantic tidal waves. Such a disaster happened in 2004, when an earthquake **(5) off** the coast of Indonesia **(6) triggered** a massive tsunami that killed over 200,000 people.

Earthquakes **(7) occur** mostly where the earth's tectonic plates meet. Massive amounts of energy are **(8) released** when two plates push towards, pull apart from or slide past each other. **(9) Although** millions happen every year there are only a small number that **(10) can be felt** and very few that cause damage.

In many cases, an earthquake **(11) lasts** 30 to 60 seconds. There is hardly any time to **(12) escape** once the shaking starts. The brutal forces of an earthquake start a **(13) complex** chain reaction in a building's structure when it is shaken. A building's height, **(14) shape** and construction materials are significant **(15) factors** when it comes to its inhabitants surviving such a disaster.