

► **Activity 1:** The words / phrases in **Column A** appeared in the extracts you have just read. Choose their correct synonym/explanation in **Column B**:

A	B
a. buckle (under the strains)	1. done in stages
b. crank up	2. a sudden short period of cold weather
c. rolling	3. collapse
d. outage	4. just one
e. tear through	5. power cut
f. singular	6. cause destruction while moving rapidly
g. cold snap	7. intensify; increase the intensity, volume, or force

► **Activity 2:** Now use the words listed below to complete the following sentences:

outages / rolling / buckle / ramp up / cranked up / tore through

- The electricity plant is expected to _____ production to meet the increased demand due to the impending heat wave.
- Power _____ affected hundreds of homes in the tornado hit area.
- Sylvia _____ the volume of the radio while it played her favourite song.
- Electricity workers went on _____ strikes protesting the plans of the government to privatize the state-controlled power utility.
- The fire _____ the factory, leaving behind only some steel structures, and parts of the stone walls.
- We hope fire fighters won't _____ under the pressure of all that work.



To get you thinking...

Are load shedding and rolling blackouts intentional or unintentional?

► **Activity 3:** Read the first three extracts again and make a list of the causes and effects mentioned. In some cases, there is a cause-effect chain (cause-effect-cause-effect), e.g., *Coming in contact with high transmission lines* (→ cause) *may give a person or a bird an electric shock* (→ effect) → (cause) *which may lead to death* (→ effect). In the last row you can add some such causes and effects not mentioned in the extracts. Use your own words as much as possible.

	Causes / reasons	Effects / results
Extract 1		
Extract 2		
Extract 3		
Other	e.g., <i>damage to power lines</i>	e.g., <i>may cause outages</i>