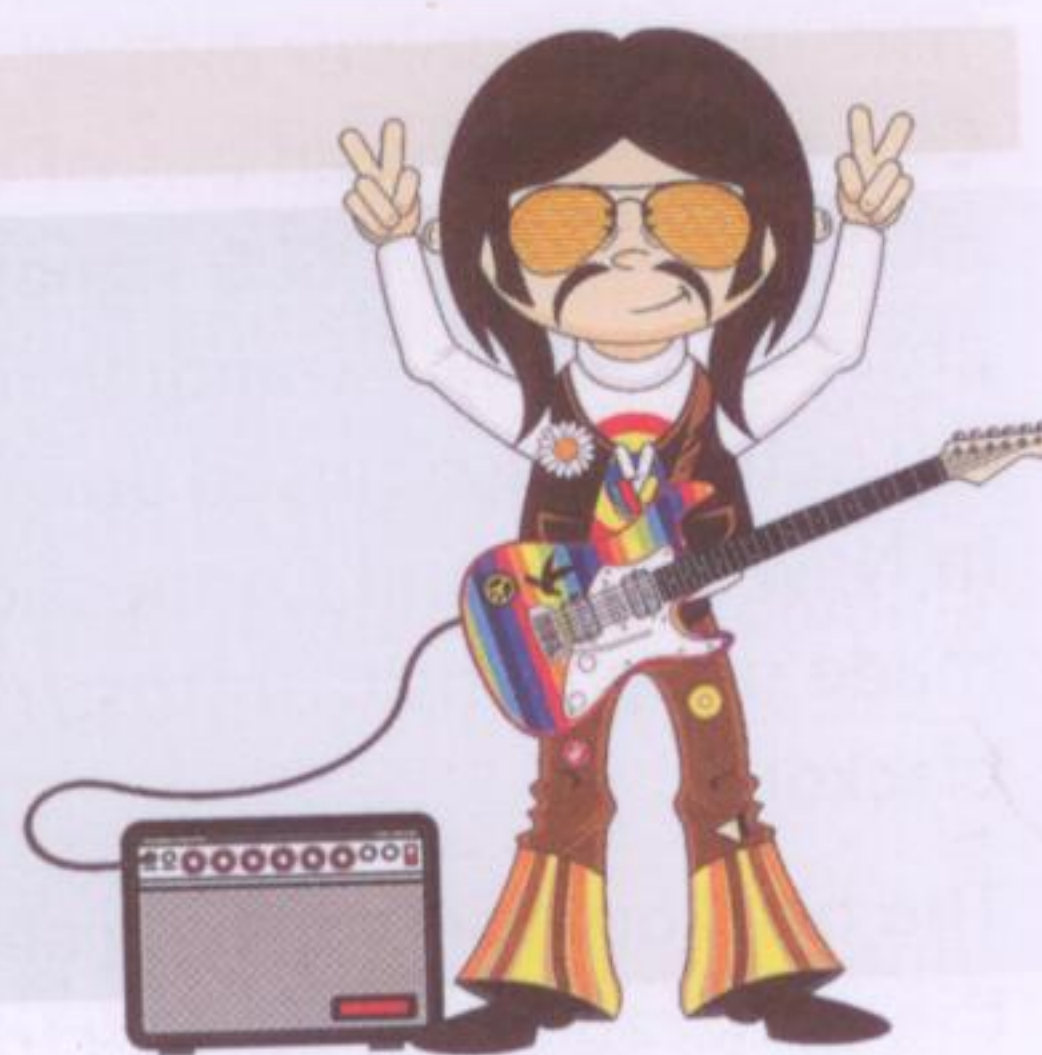


► **Activity 3:** Many of the words used so far appear in the following sentences (and in the Reading section below). Match the sentence halves in order to make meaningful pairs:

1. Twenty years later	a. if the production of nuclear power was phased out.
2. Planned power outages	b. revealed the system's vulnerability.
3. If helium balloons get stuck on power lines	c. our electric power system continues to be challenged.
4. Prolonged and repeated outages	d. are scheduled for maintenance purposes.
5. The more we rely on conventional grids	e. can be caused by cars hitting power poles, or by downed trees.
6. Birds flying into power lines	f. are ramping up.
7. A terrible explosion	g. they may/might cause a power surge or even a short circuit.
8. Activities against climate change	h. may cause power cuts.
9. Unplanned power outages	i. tore through the building.
10. It would be desirable	j. the longer our problems will last.

► **Activity 4:** Can you find the oxymoron in the cartoon?

It feels good to be off the grid!!!



Reading 1

A) The following article is about one of the largest blackouts in North American history that occurred on a hot August afternoon in 2003. Before you read the text, can you figure out the causes of the blackout? You can use some of the following ideas:

old transmission system in need of overhaul / heat wave / alarm software failed / overburdened lines

B) One of the 'lessons learned from the 2003 blackout' is that the grid infrastructure needs to become more resilient. How do you think this can be achieved? Look at the images below and say which of the two types of grid depicted you think is more effective. Why? Discuss in pairs. Then skim the text to check your answers.

