



Glossary

trip: (v.) to detect a fault and shut off the power (e.g., *a circuit breaker trips= shuts off the electrical flow*), (n.): interruption in electricity supply (e.g., *a trip in a transmission line*)
fault: a broken part or a weakness in a machine; a defect in a circuit or a line (e.g., *a short circuit*)
sag: to sink under pressure or weight
shoulder (a burden): to carry
ensue: to follow
mitigate: to make sth less harmful or severe
utility: an organization that provides electricity to the public

swath: a long area, a strip of land
instantaneous: happening immediately, without delay
cascade: 1) waterfall, 2) a series of, a sequence of processes (v. to **cascade**)
onsite: located at the site of a particular activity
challenge: to test sb's ability or stamina
vulnerability: the state of being too sensitive and, therefore, easily hurt or harmed
infrastructure: the fundamental structures and facilities of a city or country; the underlying framework of an organization or a system



Vocabulary Practice

► Activity 1: Match the words in Row A with their meanings in Row B.

Row A: 1. exert/take a toll, 2. gridlocked, 3. unprecedented, 4. devastating, 5. paradigm, 6. grind to a halt, 7. thwart, 8. phase out, 9. momentum, 10. high-rises

Row B: a) driving force, b) destructive, c) model; example, d) new; novel, e) blocked by traffic, f) stop moving, g) gradually stop using sth, h) cause suffering, i) stop sth from happening, j) tall buildings

► Activity 2: Fill in the gaps with words from the glossary as well as from Activity 1 above.

- The new President promised more funds for the repair and maintenance of the existing **i**_____.
- The new machine promises **u**_____ performance.
- The first public electricity **u**_____ was established by Thomas Edison in New York in 1882.
- The use of smartphones keeps gaining **m**_____.
- Their efforts to modernize the system were **t**_____ by the more conservative members of the group.
- The use of asbestos has been **p**_____ out due to its devastating effects on human health.
- The lines may have been forced to **s**_____ more than their safe quota of electricity.
- Such a **c**_____ of failures may have been triggered by a fault in a small part of the network.
- So much snow had fallen that year that a number of roofs in the village **s**_____ under the weight.
- A wave of panic **e**_____ when it emerged that the new variant of the virus was deadly.

► Activity 3: Which of the sentences below refer to SHUTDOWNS?

- Electrified commuter railways have shut down. ✓
- The blackout cascaded into the collapse of the regional distribution system.
- A series of faults caused by drooping lines led to the most widespread blackout in US history.
- The generating plant in Ohio went offline amid high electrical demand.
- The reliability of the grid was called into question.
- High-voltage power lines went out of service.
- A 345kV line tripped offline.
- The committee pointed out the vulnerability of the region's outdated grid.
- The surrounding areas dropped off the grid.
- More and more sections of the network disconnected from the grid.
- Overtaxed, the rest of the power lines cut out by 4 in the afternoon.
- More lines and more plants dropped out.
- The utility failed to address the problem in a timely manner.

