

Salvaging The Sewol



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

- What do you know about the Sewol sinking?
- Where were you when the Sewol sank?
- Why has the Sewol tragedy become a national issue?
- Have you ever visited memorials or spoken to families of victims?

READING THE TEXT

Read the following article and circle any unknown words or phrases.

On April 16, 2014, the Sewol passenger ferry carrying 476 people sank in one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea. In total, 294 passengers were killed, including 245 students from Danwon High School. Still missing are 9 passengers—including 4 students, 2 teachers, and 3 others including a father and his six-year-old. Despite international **outrage**, there has not yet been a full investigation into what caused the Sewol to sink and why the people were not immediately rescued.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries announced earlier this week that the Sewol ferry would be salvaged. This news comes almost three years after the ship sank. The government first announced its plan in April of 2015, but the timeline was continuously **pushed back**. Many wondered whether Sewol would ever be lifted out from the ocean.

The salvaging process has finally started, but families of victims are still **as tense as ever**. They are afraid that they may not be able to find the remains of their family members. The salvaging method is also **concerning** to some families. “The government could have chosen a faster method that doesn’t damage the ship,” said Kim Young-oh, who lost his high school student daughter Yu-min in the incident. Kim claimed that the government chose a salvaging company that allowed crucial evidence about the shipwreck to be destroyed. “They’ve already cut off crucial parts like the anchor and the propeller and taken them away.”

Edited from Korea Expose’s “Will the Sewol Finally be Salvaged?” and SewolTruth.com Fact Sheet

GRAMMAR & VOCAB

Explain the meaning of each word/phrase in your own words and write an example sentence.

outrage

to push back / to be pushed back

concerning

as [adj] as ever

ex) I met my personal trainer for the first time in years. She's as fit as ever.

allow [noun] to [verb / be + adj]

ex1) If we ignored what we saw, we'd be allowing the harassment to continue.

ex2) Carlos threw away all the photos and allowed memories of his partner to be forgotten.

[Subject] wondered whether [noun] would ever [verb / be + adj]

ex1) She wondered whether her mother would ever stop worrying about her.

DISCUSSION

Watch the video and discuss your thoughts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OKlpXxam-Y>

- Why do you think that the salvage process was constantly delayed?
- What do you think caused the incident, and why has it not been determined?
- On the day that the salvage process started, one of the top searches on Naver was "the cost of salvaging the Sewol." The cost is estimated to be 102 billion won. What are your thoughts?
- Do you think that it is important to spread the news about the Sewol sinking internationally? Why or why not?
- What do you think should be done to prevent a tragedy like this in the future?

HOMEWORK

Choose at least one of the following:

1. Write a ½ page response to the Atlantic article. Use at least one grammar expression and/or vocabulary from our lesson. <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2015/04/the-cherished-empty-bedrooms-of-the-sewol-ferry-victims/390594/>
2. Write a ½ page letter to the families of the victims in English, expressing condolences and/or sharing your thoughts. Use at least one grammar expression and/or vocabulary from our lesson.
3. Write a ½ page response to a discussion question that you did not answer in class. Use at least one grammar expression and/or vocabulary from our lesson

