



# Weather

Lesson code: KSXK-3UEB-8BFR-J

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

## 1 Extreme weather

Complete the scales by putting the words below in the correct order from 'very mild' to 'extreme':

a breeze  
boiling

a downpour  
chilly

a drizzle  
cool

a gale  
mild

- \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ a shower ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ a thunderstorm
- \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ a wind ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ a hurricane
- \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ cold ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ freezing
- \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ warm ⇒ hot ⇒ \_\_\_\_\_

In pairs, complete the sentences below:

- It's \_\_\_\_\_ today. The temperature is nearly 40°C!
- Several trees were blown down by the strong \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's not windy enough to go sailing. There's only a light \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't forget to take your umbrella with you. According to the weather forecast, there will be heavy \_\_\_\_\_ today.
- Why are you soaking wet? There's only a light \_\_\_\_\_ outside.
- We've had a very \_\_\_\_\_ winter this year. It must be global warming.
- Remember to put on your woolly jumper, scarf and gloves. It's \_\_\_\_\_ out there.

Match the adjectives on the left to the nouns on the right to describe extreme weather conditions:

- |                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1. freezing/bitter   | a. cold  |
| 2. boiling/scorching | b. fog   |
| 3. torrential/heavy  | c. heat  |
| 4. dense/thick       | d. rain  |
| 5. strong/gusty      | e. winds |

In pairs, describe the extreme weather conditions you would expect in the following places:

Antarctica

India

Saudi Arabia

Siberia

Example: *In Alaska, I would expect bitter cold, gusty winds, etc.*



## 2 Ideal weather

Put the adjectives into the correct category below:

bleak	bright	calm	clear	fair	fine	fresh
frosty	gloomy	mild	muggy	overcast	raw	sticky

Pleasant weather: \_\_\_\_\_

Unpleasant weather: \_\_\_\_\_

In pairs, discuss the ideal and non-ideal weather conditions for each of the activities below.

1. a stroll in the park
2. a skiing holiday
3. a marathon
4. a film set for a horror movie
5. a seaside holiday

## 3 Idioms

Study the sentences below. Match the underlined idioms with their correct meaning below.

1. I have no time to meet you for a coffee this week. I'm completely snowed under.
  2. I'm feeling a bit under the weather at the moment. I think it must be something I ate.
  3. The economic recession is pretty serious. We have no choice but to weather the storm until better times.
  4. Paul was very nervous before his exam, but in the end it was a breeze.
  5. They are always yelling at each other, but it's usually just a storm in a teacup.
  6. I don't want to spend all my money now. I'd rather save up for a rainy day.
  7. Michael is a fair-weather friend. You can never count on him when you are having problems.
- a. a lot of fuss about something small
  - b. keep money for a time when you might need it
  - c. not very well
  - d. someone who is a good friend only when it is convenient
  - e. survive in a difficult situation
  - f. very busy
  - g. very easy to achieve or complete



**In pairs, ask and answer the following questions:**

1. Do you spend money when you have it or do you prefer to save up for a rainy day?
2. Describe a time when you had to weather the storm.
3. Do you have any fair-weather friends?
4. Describe something that was a breeze.

#### **4 Talking point**

**Describe the weather in your country during the different seasons using words from this lesson. Remember that the weather is not always predictable, so try to use expressions such as:**

*"In winter it tends to be/get ..."*  
*"Our summers are typically ..."*

*"The temperature can drop to ..."*  
*"... is/are very common in spring."*



**1 Extreme weather**

1. a drizzle - a shower - a downpour - a thunderstorm
2. a breeze - a wind - a gale - a hurricane
3. cool - cold - chilly - freezing
4. mild - warm - hot - boiling

Complete the sentences:

- |            |          |             |                      |
|------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. boiling | 2. gales | 3. breeze   | 4. downpours/showers |
| 5. drizzle | 6. mild  | 7. freezing |                      |

Adjectives-nouns:

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. a | 2. c | 3. d | 4. b | 5. e |
|------|------|------|------|------|

**2 Ideal weather**

*Definitions of adjectives: bleak - cold/depressing; bright - sunny; calm - without wind; clear - not cloudy; fair - pleasant and dry; fine (mainly UK English) - sunny and dry; fresh - pleasantly cool or windy; frosty - very cold with ice; gloomy - dark and depressing; mild - less cold than usual; muggy - unpleasantly warm and humid; overcast - cloudy, with no sunshine; raw - extremely cold and painful; sticky - very hot, making you sweat a lot*

1. Pleasant weather: fine, bright, fresh, clear, mild, calm, fair
2. Unpleasant weather: bleak, raw, muggy, overcast, sticky, frost, gloomy

**3 Idioms**

- |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. f | 2. c | 3. e | 4. g | 5. a | 6. b | 7. d |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

