

Come Rain or Shine



Start thinking!

What's the weather usually like in each season in your area?

Think about:

- spring
- summer
- autumn
- winter



Reading



- 1** **1.19** Read this extract from a book. Would you like to do what the writer suggests?

2

Read the sentences. Do you think the writer of the book agrees or disagrees with them?

- 1 Traditional wisdom isn't very reliable.
- 2 The professionals rely on the amateurs.
- 3 You should know the usual weather patterns.
- 4 You can benefit from your forecasts.

Do-It-Yourself Forecasts

*When the wind is in the west,
the weather is always best.*

*When the wind's in the south,
the rain's in its mouth.*

Have you heard sayings like these before? Or have you heard that when cows lie down it's going to rain? Maybe you've heard that a sunny Christmas Day means we're going to have a warm Easter. Many cultures have traditional ideas about how to forecast the weather and they all have one thing in common: they are not very accurate. Most of **them** are about as accurate as saying that the weather tomorrow will be more or less the same as today. The weather is too complicated to be forecast easily and simply.

How do meteorologists go about trying to forecast the weather? The first thing they need is information, and lots of it. Data is constantly collected from weather stations around the world. Weather balloons tell us what is happening at high altitude. Satellites give us images of cloud cover and wind direction. All this information is processed by computer and combined with information about the normal climate of a region to produce the forecast. Even so, we can only accurately forecast the weather for the next couple of days.

Can't we amateurs forecast the weather at all, then? Yes, we can, but to be a great amateur meteorologist you need to do some of the things the experts do. First of all, collect your information. You need to know about the climate in the area where you live. What's a typical summer like? How much rain normally falls in October? If your area never gets fog in the summer, then a forecast of fog in July is unlikely to be accurate.

The next thing you need to take into account is local geography. Are there any mountains nearby? They could affect the wind. Are you by the coast? That could affect rainfall. All these factors need to be considered when you are trying to understand what the weather is going to do next. You'll also need some basic equipment: a good thermometer, a barometer to measure pressure in the atmosphere and, if possible, a wind meter. Start to keep records of the temperature, pressure and wind speed and direction each day.

Then it's a question of using your eyes, and even your ears. Listen to the radio. Is there a lot of static? Together with falling atmospheric pressure, that probably means that the weather is going to get worse. Go outside and listen. Do sounds seem clearer than usual? Is there a kind of ring around the Sun or Moon? It could mean that it's

3 Read the text again. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- 1 What does 'them' in line 7 refer to?
A different cultures
B traditional ideas about the weather
C most weather forecasts
D the weather on different days
- 2 The writer does not mention that forecasters collect information about
A the weather very high in the atmosphere.
B the accuracy of forecasts in the past.
C the amount of cloud over an area.
D the way the wind is blowing.
- 3 What does the writer say you need to know about your area?
A the forecasts of the experts
B the general patterns of weather
C how rain affects local people
D how summer fog is caused
- 4 The writer suggests that the amateur forecaster should
A buy a lot of accurate equipment.
B get a good map of the area.
C make notes about changes in the weather.
D live in a flat area away from the sea.
- 5 You might be able to forecast good weather when
A the reading on your barometer is falling.
B you can hear sounds very clearly.
C low clouds start to disappear.
D the moon is very bright in the sky.
- 6 To make accurate forecasts, you need to have
A experience of forecasting.
B good planning.
C time to watch the weather change.
D a good memory.



going to rain. Is your barometer rising and do the clouds seem to be getting higher? It probably means that the weather is clearing up.

With a little practice, your forecasts will become more accurate. Soon, you'll be able to plan your day better. Are you playing football tomorrow? Well, a quick look at your equipment and a few minutes spent outside will tell you whether it's going to rain or not. Are you going skiing next week? Maybe you should forget it if there's no chance of snow.

Making your own forecasts can be a lot of fun, and who knows? You might even beat the experts!

WORD BOX

4 Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 forecast (paragraph 1) | a unwanted electrical noise (on a radio) |
| 2 meteorologist (paragraph 2) | b the general weather pattern of a place |
| 3 data (paragraph 2) | c (of the weather) become better, less cloudy, etc |
| 4 climate (paragraph 2) | d person who studies the weather |
| 5 amateur (paragraph 3) | e predict |
| 6 barometer (paragraph 4) | f information, especially in the form of numbers |
| 7 static (paragraph 5) | g device for measuring atmospheric pressure |
| 8 clear up (paragraph 5) | h person who does something for pleasure, without being paid |



Have your say!

- Are you interested in making your own amateur weather forecasts?
- Would you like to be a professional meteorologist when you're older?

G Grammar clinic

The future (1)

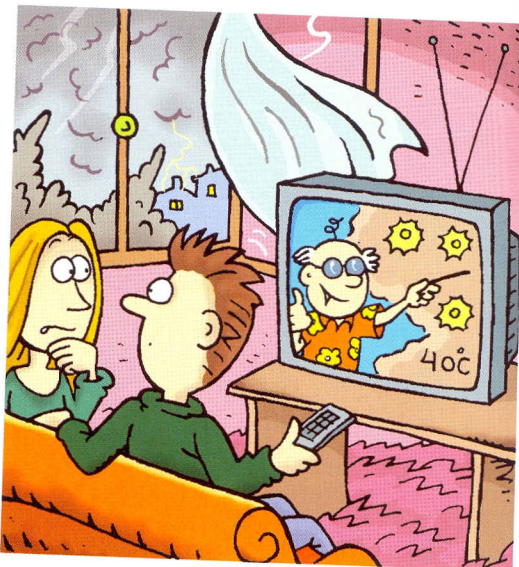
👁 Look at *Grammar database* pages 178–179 before you do the exercises.

1 Look at the book extract on pages 50 and 51. Find as many examples as you can of these ways of referring to the future and underline them.

- *be going to*
- *will*
- *could/might*
- *present continuous*

2 Choose the correct option in each sentence.

- 1 A hurricane is going to hit Florida in the next few days.
a This is an arrangement. b This is a prediction.
- 2 Shall we check the weather forecast before we plan the picnic?
a This is a suggestion. b This is an offer.
- 3 I'm sorry, but I'm not carrying your umbrella for you.
a This is an arrangement. b This is a refusal.
- 4 If the weather's okay, we're visiting your grandma this weekend.
a This is an arrangement. b This is a suggestion.



3 Circle the correct word or phrase to complete the email.

✍️ ✉️ ➔

To: Jackie
Date: 4th November

Subject: Hi!

Hi Zoe,

Thanks for your email!

This is just a quick message because (1) *I'm meeting/I'll meet* Alison at the gym in a few minutes.

Anyway, here's what I need to know. (2) *Do you still go/Are you still going* to Dave's barbecue on Saturday afternoon? I hope so, because I think (3) *we'll have/we're having* a great time! What do you think the weather (4) *will be/is being* like? If it's warm, (5) *I/I'll* wear my new shorts. (6) *I'm going to/I* call Dave this evening to ask him what we should bring with us. (7) *Are/Will* you seeing him tomorrow?

Got to go now. (8) *I'm texting/I'll text* you later when (9) *I/I'll* get back from the gym.

Bye for now!

Jackie

4 Correct the sentences that have mistakes in them. One sentence has no mistakes. Which one?

- 1 We should take coats with us. The forecast says it's raining later today.
- 2 I hope it stops snowing! I meet Ben at the café at six.
- 3 It's getting very windy! We will have a storm!
- 4 Shall I turn the central heating on? It's getting a bit cold, isn't it?
- 5 That was lightning! It starts raining in a minute, I bet!
- 6 I think that in 100 years' time we are able to control the weather.

V Vocabulary builder

The weather

1 Match the words in the box with the correct definitions.

hurricane • heatwave • blizzard
shower • hail • frost • mist

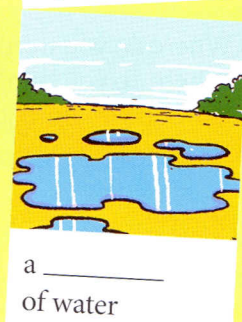
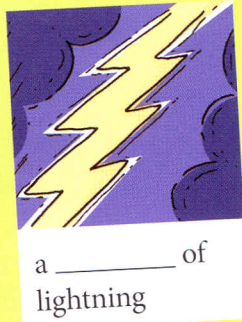
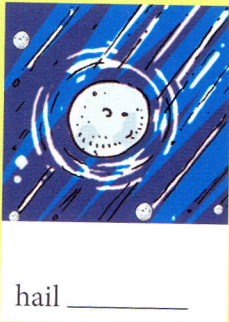
- This is frozen rain.
- This is a short period when it rains.
- This is a heavy snowstorm.
- This is white ice, like a powder on the ground.
- This is light fog.
- This is a very strong storm with powerful winds.
- This is a period of very hot weather.

We can make adjectives by adding **-y** to three of the words in exercise 1. Which ones?

What other adjectives ending in **-y** do you know for describing the weather? Make a list.

2 Complete the words and phrases using the words in the box.

stone • gust • flake • puddle • flash • drop



Collocations

3 Choose the correct option in each sentence.

- We didn't go to the concert in the end because it was _____ with rain.
a dripping b showering c pouring
- I heard that there were really _____ winds in France last night.
a strong b heavy c wet
- In our area, we usually have warm summers and _____ winters.
a light b mild c easy
- It looks like a _____ shower, so we'll just wait for it to stop raining.
a moving b travelling c passing
- Don't go out without your coat. It's raining _____.
a hard b greatly c powerfully


Confusable words

4 Complete the sentences using the correct form of the words in the boxes.


look • see • watch

- We were _____ the match when suddenly it started to snow!
- I love _____ at all the trees when it's been snowing.
- It was the first time Lee had ever _____ snow.
nervous • upset
- Daisy will be really _____ if we cancel the trip because of the weather.
- I get a bit _____ when I have to speak in public.
have • spend • pass
- We always _____ our holidays in hot countries.
- Did you _____ a good time playing in the snow?
- If we can't play out because of the rain, let's play cards to _____ the time.

Listening

1  **1.20** You are going to listen to an extract from an interview about rainbows. Answer the questions.

- 1 What's the programme called?
- 2 What does Nicola want to know?
- 3 Where does Kate work?

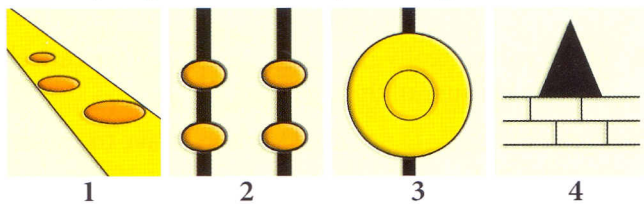
2  **1.21** Listen to the whole interview. For questions 1–7, complete the sentences.

The sun's energy is composed of **1** _____ microwaves and light.
 Light reaching the Earth is bent by **2** _____ in the air.
 Kate suggests looking closely at a **3** _____ .
 We don't see rainbows in winter because the raindrops are **4** _____ .
 You can create a rainbow by **5** _____ into the air.
 To do Kate's experiment, you need a mirror, the sun, a bowl of water and a **6** _____ .
 The next question is about the causes of **7** _____ .

Speaking

1 Here are some pictures of unusual things. Talk about what you think they might be. Use the phrases given.

Useful Phrases



I'm really not sure, but I think it could ...

It's not clear, but I suppose it might ...

Do you think it could be ...

I guess it might be ...

One possibility is that it's ...

Soundbite weak forms (1)

1.22 Some words are pronounced differently when they aren't stressed. Listen to how we say the underlined words in these sentences.

- and* I get a bit scared when there's lots of thunder and lightning.
an Don't forget to take an umbrella.
as It's not as cold as yesterday, is it?
at It started snowing at 10 o'clock and didn't stop.
can If it's warm, we can go to the beach.
for It seems like it's been raining for days.

Now try saying the sentences in the same way. If necessary, listen again.



2 In pairs, discuss the questions about the picture. Use the phrases from exercise 1 to help you.

- Where do you think the photograph was taken?
- Where do you think the people are going?
- How do you think they feel?

 Look at *Speaking database - Giving/Asking for opinion* on page 165.



Use of English

Question tags

Look at *Grammar database page 180* before you do the exercises.

1 Complete the questions.

- Lightning usually means there's going to be a storm, _____?
- There's been a lot of unusual weather this year, _____?
- Nobody said we were going to have a storm, _____?
- They should put the weather on before the news, _____?
- You haven't heard what they're forecasting for tomorrow, _____?

Connectors

2 Complete the sentences using the connectors in the box.

although • however • despite
since • so • in spite

- The weather affects us all, _____ we can protect ourselves from some of its effects.
- We can never protect ourselves from extreme weather completely, _____ nature is too powerful.
- Hurricanes will always be a threat, _____ all our efforts.
- Scientists have made progress in controlling the weather, _____ of the difficulties.
- We can't make rain fall in desert areas, _____ drought is still a problem.
- Control over the weather could save many lives. _____, we don't have the technology yet.

3 For questions 1–10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

Have you (0) ever thought, 'Oh, no! Not another grey rainy day!?' Bad weather can really affect your mood, (1) _____ it? Most of us get depressed at some point (2) _____ the winter, and we can't wait for spring to come. For some people, (3) _____, those dark, cold winter days can cause real medical problems.

Doctors have (4) _____ a condition which is (5) _____ as SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder) and it can be a big problem in countries in northern Europe where the winters are long and dark. SAD sufferers find it difficult to (6) _____, often feel depressed or anxious and their behaviour affects the people (7) _____ them.

The whole problem is caused by a lack of sunlight. Bright light affects the chemistry of the brain, although scientists don't understand (8) _____ how. There are two main cures. The first is to travel to a country that has a warm (9) _____, with bright, sunny winters. The second is to use (10) _____ light. So, if it's raining and you're depressed, perhaps it's time you had a holiday in the sun!

- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 0 | A hardly | B ever | C soon | D every |
| 1 | A doesn't | B wouldn't | C can't | D isn't |
| 2 | A during | B while | C into | D of |
| 3 | A despite | B although | C yet | D however |
| 4 | A invented | B developed | C discovered | D produced |
| 5 | A called | B known | C regarded | D named |
| 6 | A imagine | B consider | C wonder | D concentrate |
| 7 | A around | B among | C nearby | D by |
| 8 | A accurately | B mainly | C closely | D exactly |
| 9 | A weather | B sunshine | C climate | D season |
| 10 | A false | B artificial | C fake | D pretend |

Writing

An article

👁 Look at *Writing database - articles on page 153* before you do the exercises.

- 1 Read this writing task. Who is going to read this article?

You have been asked by an international students' magazine to write an article about your local climate and how it affects people's way of life.

Write an **article** of between **120** and **180** words in an appropriate style.

- 2 Choose the correct option in each sentence.

- Your readers are _____ you.
a about the same age as b much older than
- This kind of article _____ be very formal.
a should b shouldn't
- Your main purpose is to _____ your readers.
a persuade b entertain
- Your style of writing should be quite _____.
a conversational b formal
- This kind of writing _____ have a title.
a should b shouldn't

Working model

- 3 Read the answer to the writing task.

Is your idea of fun lying on the beach, or is skiing more your style? In my area we are doing both! I live on the east coast of Greece and we have a Mediterranean climate. We do have cold days, but the sun is never far away. The summers are warm and dry. Temperatures can reach at 40° Celsius, although it's not usually so hot. The days are sunny and bright and most people spend their time swimming or sitting in cafés.

Autumn can be wet and windy. We have great storms, with lots of thunder and lightnings, and people usually visit friends or stay at home.

The winters are mild and sunny. It might snow in February or March, but it doesn't last long. Everybody loves to go for the lunch in villages in the mountains and play in the snow.

Spring finally arrives and the days get warmer again. Some people like going for picnics in a countryside.

My area has a wonderful climate, which is why we get such many tourists. Everybody enjoys themselves, whatever season it is.



4 The writer has forgotten to give the article on page 56 a title. Which of these would be a good title? Why?

- 1 Meteorological Phenomena and Humans
- 2 How I Spend My Holidays
- 3 Fun All Year Round

5 The writer has made a few mistakes. Read the article again and find one mistake in each paragraph. Correct it.

Ready to write!

6 Look at this writing task. Who is going to read your article?

You have been asked by an international students' magazine to write an article about problems caused by the weather in your country.

Write an **article** of between **120** and **180** words in an appropriate style.

7 Make a plan of your answer.

- What might be a good title for your article?
- It's often good to start an article with a question to get your readers' attention. What question could you start with?
- What's the first kind of weather you're going to talk about? What problems does it cause?
- What's the second kind of weather you're going to talk about? What problems does it cause?
- What's the third kind of weather you're going to talk about? What problems does it cause?
- What style are you going to use, formal or informal?

Now complete *Writing Planner 6* on page 157.

Now write!

8 You are now ready to write your article for the magazine. Use an appropriate style. Answer the question!

Check it out!

9 Check your work. Tick (✓) what you have done.

I have given my article an appropriate title.

I have used an informal style of writing.

I have described problems caused by different kinds of weather.

I have used paragraphs.

I have checked my spelling and my grammar.

My article is between 120 and 180 words long.

Look Back

Can you answer these questions? If you can't remember, look through the unit for the answers.

- 1 What are the signs that it might rain soon?
- 2 What does a barometer measure?
- 3 What tense do we generally use to talk about future arrangements?
- 4 What is a blizzard?
- 5 We use question tags to invite someone to agree with us and _____.