



THE WEATHER

"I like the cold weather. It means you get work done."

Noam Chomsky, American linguist and political activist

1. The Weather Discussion

1. What is the weather? What is the difference between weather and climate? How would you describe the weather today?
2. What is your perfect weather? What kind of weather do you hate? Which countries are known for having bad weather? Which countries have good weather?
3. How would you describe the typical weather where you live? How does the weather change in different parts of your country? Which places have the best and worst weather?
4. Have you experienced snow? Where can you go to experience snow? What can you do in it?
5. What are the four seasons? How would you describe the weather in each of these? Does your country have seasons? If so, how does the weather change depending on the season?
6. Do you trust the weather forecast? Do they ever get it right?
7. What do you like to do on a rainy day?
8. How does the weather affect your mood?

2. The Weather Vocabulary

- **downpour** vs **drizzle** (nouns) – *heavy rain (downpour) vs light rain (drizzle).*
- **fog** vs **mist** (nouns) – *a thick layer of cloud on the ground that severely limits visibility (fog) or a less dense cloud that doesn't restrict visibility as much (mist).*
- **black ice** (noun) – *a layer of ice on roads or paths that is difficult to see.*
- **sleet** (noun) – *a mixture of rain and snow.*
- **(to) hail** (verb, noun), **hailstorm** (noun), **hailstone** (noun) – *small balls of ice that fall from the sky during stormy weather.*
- **blizzard** (noun) – *a snowstorm lasting several hours and causing large amounts of snowfall accompanied by strong winds making visibility difficult.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. I got caught in a **downpour** and realised I had left my umbrella at home.
2. I'm wet and freezing thanks to the **sleet**.
3. If you get caught in a **blizzard** while driving, pull over immediately and try to keep yourself warm.
4. Several cars skidded on **black ice** and crashed into each other.
5. Some **hailstones** can be the size of a golf ball, and just as hard.
6. You should only use your car's full beam in **fog** or when there is no oncoming traffic.

The Weather vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What's worse: being caught in a downpour for a few minutes or an hour in drizzle?
2. Have you ever experienced fog or mist? Where and when is it common to experience this?
3. Why is black ice so dangerous? Have you ever experienced it?
4. Have you experienced sleet? Is this the worst type of weather?
5. What should you do if you get caught in a hailstorm?
6. Have you ever experienced a blizzard? Which places commonly experience blizzards? How can you keep yourself safe during a blizzard?

3. Video: The Seasons Explained

You are going to watch a video by TED Ed called "Reasons for the seasons."

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-weather/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What proportion of the Earth's population has never seen snow?
a) a quarter **b) a third** c) half
2. How many regions on Earth experience four seasons?
a) 1 **b) 2** c) 3
3. What did Kepler discover that is not at the centre of the earth's orbit?
a) the Earth b) the Moon **c) the Sun**
4. In which month is the Earth furthest away from the Sun?
a) January **b) July** c) December

Sentence completion

5. The Earth tilts on an **axis**.
6. The Earth's surface **warms up** when sunlight shines on it.
7. In the winter, there are more hours of **cooling** time.
8. In the summer, the Sun never **sets** on the North Pole.

Short answer

9. What can you find in the water at the North Pole? **Icebergs**
10. What shape is the Earth? **A sphere**
11. At what time on the summer solstice is the Sun at its highest? **Noon**
12. What does the North Pole receive less of from sunlight than a place further to the south? **Energy**

4. The Weather Conversation Questions

1. What is the worst weather you have experienced? Can you describe it?
2. Have you experienced stormy weather? Do you get scared when you hear thunder and lightning? How can you stay safe during a storm?
3. What clothes or items can help protect you in rainy weather? What kind of clothes are best to wear in hot weather? What other items can help in this type of weather?
4. Why are some places hot and some places cold? Why are some places wet and some places dry? What would you prefer: being too hot or too cold?
5. What kind of disruption can the weather cause? How does the weather affect the economy?
6. Has the weather changed during your life? If so, why do you think that is? What causes the weather to change? Can humans affect the weather?
7. How will the weather be different in the future?
8. Do you think humans will be able to control the weather in the future? If you do, how would people use this?

5. The Weather Writing Task

Write about your opinion of the weather. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- How the weather is where you live.
- Your experience of bad weather.
- How the weather has changed through your life.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people say it is better to live in a place with a warm climate, while others argue it is better to live in a place with a cool climate. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.