Match the correct adjectives to the days they describe:

1 a warm, sunny summer’s day  
2 a very cold winter’s day  
3 a wet, miserable, cloudy day  
4 a cold early morning with poor visibility

misty  chilly  mild  foggy  cool  
frosty  bright  misty  overcast  raw  
dreary  rainy  bleak  pleasant  dull

Put the following words and phrases in order from the least strong to the strongest:

1 a gale  a breeze  a hurricane  a strong wind  
2 chilly  nippy  fresh  icy  
3 it’s drizzling  it’s pouring down  it’s spitting  it’s raining  
4 a blizzard  a breath of wind  a storm  a gust of wind  
5 bright  glorious  fair  brilliant  

Classify the following words as either very hot or very cold:

baking  sweltering  freezng  scorching  boiling  wintry  bitter  ice-cold
Read the following sentences in pairs. Decide what the weather is like for each situation:

1 You’re shivering, and your teeth are chattering.
2 You’re sweating.
3 You’re soaked.
4 You’ve got frostbite.
5 You’ve got a bit of a tan.

Read the weather forecasts and complete the gaps using the words below:

arctic  tropical  temperate

A Friday will be changeable with a mixture of showers and sunny spells throughout the day, which is typical of our ____________ climate at this time of year – not too hot, not too cold, but plenty of rain, I’m afraid.

B Gale-force winds coming in from the sea will bring freezing ________________ conditions to many parts of the west over the weekend.

C Tomorrow will be hot, humid and sticky in the morning, with hardly a breath of wind, almost ________________ in fact. Cooler, breezier conditions in the afternoon will be followed by violent thunderstorms, rolling in from the sea later in the day.
The phrases below all use climate words. Match them to expressions 1 – 7:

She has a sunny disposition.  She’s as right as rain.
She has her head in the clouds.  She got cold feet.
She tends to act in the heat of the moment.  She gets hot under the collar.
She usually looks on the bright side.

1. Don’t worry. She’s perfectly OK after the accident.
2. She’s a very impractical person.
3. She gets very angry and loses her temper.
4. She was going to ask him to go out with her, but lost her nerve.
5. She is a very optimistic person.
6. She does things without thinking.
7. She’s lovely – always smiling.

Answer the following questions about the climate in your country:

1. What’s the climate like?
2. What seasons are there? When are they? What is the weather typically like in summer and winter?
3. What’s the weather like now?
4. What time of the year do you prefer, and why?
Do the weather quiz. You might need a dictionary to help.

If you have access to the Macmillan English Advanced Learner’s Dictionary and CD ROM you can find all the answers by finding the key word weather, and following the various links:

1. Which of these words would you probably not use to describe weather conditions: adverse, appalling, perverse, atrocious?
2. What does to weather the storm mean?
3. What is a weatherboard?
4. Where can you go if you are weather bound?
5. What do they do at a weather centre?
6. Can you say severe weather?
7. If something is weather worn what’s wrong with it?
8. What does a weather vane do?
9. If you are under the weather, how do you feel?
10. If the party is weather permitting, what are the hosts worried about?
11. If you have a weather-beaten face, what’s happened to it?
Teacher’s notes - Climate
1  Ask students to match the words to the days they describe.
   Answers:
   1) mild, bright, pleasant  2) frosty, raw, bleak, (maybe bright)
   3) overcast, dreary, rainy, dull, (cool and chilly)  4) misty, chilly, foggy, cool, (dreary and dull)

2  Ask students in pairs to put the lists of words in order, from the least strong to the strongest.
   Answers:
   1 a breeze  a strong wind  a gale  a hurricane
   2 fresh  chilly  nippy  icy
   3 it’s spitting  it’s drizzling  it’s raining  it’s pouring down
   4 a breath of wind  a gust of wind  a storm  a blizzard
   5 fair  bright  brilliant  glorious

3  Ask students in pairs to divide the words and phrases into two groups: very hot and very cold.
   Answers:
   Very hot:  baking  boiling  sweltering  scorching
   Very cold:  freezing  bitter  wintry  ice-cold

4  Ask students in pairs to decide what the weather is like in each situation.
   Answers:
   1 It’s cold/freezing/wintry
   2 It’s hot/boiling/humid
   3 It’s raining/pouring down
   4 It’s very cold/freezing/Arctic conditions
   6 It’s sunny/bright/warm

5  Ask students to read the weather forecasts, and complete the gaps with the words.
   Answers:
   A Friday will be changeable with a mixture of showers and sunny spells throughout the day, which is typical of our temperate climate at this time of year – not too hot, not too cold, but plenty of rain, I’m afraid…

   B Gale-force winds coming in from the Atlantic will bring freezing arctic conditions to many parts of the west over the weekend…

   C Tomorrow will be hot, humid and sticky in the morning, with hardly a breath of wind, almost tropical in fact. Cooler, breezier conditions in the afternoon will be followed by violent thunderstorms, rolling in from the sea later in the day…
Ask students in pairs to match the expressions to the synonyms.

Answers:
1) She’s as right as rain  
2) She has her head in the clouds  
3) She gets hot under the collar  
4) She got cold feet  
5) She usually looks on the bright side  
6) She tends to act in the heat of the moment  
7) She has a sunny disposition

Give the students a few minutes to think of their answers then put them in pairs or small groups to discuss.

Ask students to do the following quiz. If they have the Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learner’s CD they can find all the answers by finding the key word weather, and following the various links.

Answers:
1) Perverse
2) Come through a time of great difficulty
3) One of a set of wooden boards used for protecting the outside of some buildings.
4) Unable to leave the place you are in because of bad weather.
5) Where experts study the weather and report on how conditions are likely to change.
6) Yes
7) Damaged by being outside for long periods in bad weather.
8) An object that is fixed on top of a building and points in the direction the wind is coming from.
9) Feeling unwell.
10) If the weather is suitable
11) Damaged or made rough by being out for long periods in bad weather.