

Weather Vocabulary Teacher's Notes – by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Elementary

Aims: Students learn twelve items of weather lexis. The task in this vocabulary lesson is a listening and a speaking task to tell the weather. The optional cultural aim of this lesson is to highlight the way people tell the temperature in America (Fahrenheit) and how to calculate Celsius to Fahrenheit.

Warmer – Talking about the weather in class

Ask your students “What is the weather today?” Elicit some answers and follow up with other questions. “Is this normal weather for [October]?” “Do you like this weather?” “What is your favorite weather?” If students are struggling with weather words, give them the help they need and put the words on the board.

Spidergram

Explain the first exercise on the worksheet and ask students to complete it in pairs. Check back the answers and clarify meaning of completely unknown words where necessary.

Answers:

Verbs: to snow, to rain, to blow (used with wind), to shine (used with the sun)

Temperature: hot, warm, cool, cold

Adjectives: windy, rainy, sunny, cloudy

Weather sentences

Once students have completed the first exercise, move on to the second, which involves putting the words in the right places. There is more than one possible answer (possibilities given below)

Answers: a) hot/sunny b) snows c) rainy d) blowing e) shining f) cold/cool

Listening

Explain to the students that they are going to have a dictation, but they only need to write down the weather words and numbers they hear associated with the cities on the worksheet. Read out the following weather report and repeat it if necessary.

Good afternoon, and here is the quick weather forecast for the United States. Starting with the north. In Chicago it's going to be a cloudy day with a temperature of around 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Unfortunately for all of you who live in New York it's going to be very wet. Yes, it's going to rain all day in the Big Apple with an average temperature of 60.

In the south the sun is going to shine all day in San Francisco, with a nice hot temperature of 80. But look out Miami. There are some big storms coming, and after a cloudy morning and it's going to rain in the afternoon and all night. The temperature will be hot and humid, around 78 degrees.

Speaking

Give students time to prepare this task (it could be prepared for homework). To make the task even more authentic, ask them to make a weather map which they can indicate while they give their weather report. Have students present it to each other in groups. Who makes the best weather presenter in the class?

Celsius or Fahrenheit?

Go over the note at the bottom of the page. Ask students what they use in their country. Go back to the temperatures from the weather forecast in the Listening and ask the students to convert them into Celsius.