

Climate

Upper Intermediate

1 Match the adjectives

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

2 Word ordering

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 |

3 Hot and cold words

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

baking	freezing	boiling	bitter
sweltering	scorching	wintry	ice-cold

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4 What's the weather like?

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.

5 Fill the gaps

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.

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6 Match the synonyms

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.

7 Climate in your country

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?

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8 Weather quiz

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?

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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...

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6 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 | |

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

8 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.