

New demand for TV presenters to include climate in forecasts

Level: Elementary

1 Warmer

Choose the correct answers.

1. The highest temperature on Earth was **56.7** / **65.7** degrees Celsius.
2. This was in **Saudi Arabia** / **California**.
3. The coldest temperature on Earth was **-79.2** / **-89.2** degrees Celsius.
4. This was in **Antarctica** / **Canada**.
5. The sunniest place on Earth is in **Australia** / **the USA**.
6. The wettest place on Earth is in **India** / **Brazil**.

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

climate change

extreme

forecast

heatwave

trust

1. A weather _____ tells people what the weather will be like. (para 1)
2. A _____ is a period of very hot weather, especially when this is unusual. (para 1)
3. If weather is _____, it is very, very hot or cold, or very, very dry or wet etc. (para 1)
4. The changes that are affecting the world's weather and making it warmer are called _____.
(para 1)
5. If you _____ someone, you believe what they say. (para 2)

audience

communicator

event

greenhouse gas

meteorology

6. A good _____ can speak to people clearly and in an interesting way. (para 2)
7. The people who watch a TV programme are called an _____. (para 2)
8. _____ is the scientific study of weather. (para 3)
9. An _____ is something that happens. (para 5)
10. A _____ stops heat escaping from the atmosphere and makes the earth warmer. (para 7)

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Graham Readfearn

4 December, 2020

- 1 Graham Creed presents the weather forecast on television. For the last twenty years, he has told Australians if it's going to be hot, cold, wet or dry. But since 2018, usually during heatwaves and extreme temperatures, he has added extra information to his weather forecasts. He has started talking about climate change.
- 2 Climate researcher David Holmes says, "Most Australians are very worried about climate change but don't really understand it. People trust climate scientists most on climate change, followed by farmers and firefighters. Weather presenters are fourth. People trust them," says Holmes, "but they are also good communicators and they speak to large audiences."
- 3 The information for weather presenters comes from the Bureau of Meteorology. The information is about rising temperatures over the last fifty years. Australia is 1.4C warmer than in 1910 and there are many more days of extreme heat.
- 4 There is new research from the Bureau of Meteorology. With this information, weather presenters can tell the audience how climate change has made future hot months or seasons even hotter. Holmes and Creed say, "It could help the public to understand the effects of climate change on their lives."
- 5 Recently, scientists from the bureau wrote about a new method. This method can calculate the influence of climate change on some extreme-weather events before they even happen. This is possible by looking at two groups of results from a model that forecasts future months and seasons. One model includes the extra CO₂ that is in the atmosphere because of human activity. The other model starts without it. Scientists then compare the two results.
- 6 When they compare the two results, they can see the influence of climate change on the weather event. Climate change and natural changes in weather always happen together, but now scientists can see if climate change made a weather event more likely or warmer.
- 7 For both Creed and Holmes, the bureau's work makes it easier to talk about the effects of climate change to their audience. Holmes says: "We will be able to forecast how much of a weather event is because of greenhouse gases. We can now say, for example, 'This heatwave will be a degree warmer because of climate change.'"
- 8 Has the climate changed since Creed started presenting the weather twenty years ago? "Yes, the weather is changing," he says. "And I think that I should talk about it."

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3 Comprehension check

Answer these questions.

1. How long has Graham Creed presented weather forecasts on Australian television?
2. What extra information does he now add to his weather forecasts?
3. Who do Australians trust most on climate change?
4. Where do weather presenters in Australia get their information from?
5. How much warmer is Australia now than in 1910?
6. What always happens together with climate change?
7. Does Graham Creed think that the climate has changed since he started presenting the weather twenty years ago?

4 Using key language

Complete the questions using these prepositions. Then answer the questions.

from of on in about over

1. Do you watch weather forecasts _____ television? Why / Why not?
2. Are you worried _____ climate change? Why? Why not?
3. Where do you get information about the weather _____?
4. How has the weather in your country changed _____ the last twenty years?
5. What bad things are the result _____ human activity?
6. Are you interested _____ meteorology? If so, why? If not, why not?

5 Discussion

Answer the questions. Give reasons for your answers.

- Is the weather around the world getting more extreme?
- Should there be climate-change information in weather forecasts?
- What should people do to stop the world getting warmer?

6 In your own words

Read the news article again. Then write a short paragraph to summarise the ideas in the article. If you want, use these phrases to help you.

The article is about ...

Over the last twenty years, the weather in Australia ...

Graham Creed is a ... He says ...

David Holmes is a ... He says ...