

МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

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Seasons and Weather

Учебно-методическое пособие

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В настоящем пособии изложен материал по теме «Seasons and Weather». Данное пособие направлено на развитие языковых навыков, а также на тренировку всех видов речевой деятельности. Пособие состоит из 4 разделов и содержит современные аутентичные материалы, соответствующие учебной программе. Пособие предназначено для студентов ННГУ, обучающихся по направлению подготовки 45.03.01 «Филология», изучающих английский язык, как в аудитории для выполнения заданий под руководством преподавателя, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов.

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Оглавление

Введение.....	4
PART 1. VOCABULARY.....	5
PART 2. EXERCISES.....	22
PART 3. SEASONS.....	46
PART 4. WEATHER FORECAST.....	56
Заключение.....	64
Список источников информации.....	65

ВВЕДЕНИЕ

To the reader:

You agree, don't you, that weather is the subject that interest anyone. People all over the world depend on weather in many cases: it determines the choice of clothes you put on, the way of spending your free time. Everyone is anxious to know what the weather is going to be like, that's why we listen to the weather forecast or just google it using a smartphone. Weather can affect our mood: when it is drizzling some people are in low spirits, but a delicate spring smell of first flowers and songs of birds set them into a cheerful mood.

— Are you weather sensitive?

— How do you feel in different sorts of weather?

— Do you agree that any sort of weather can present a health risk?

According to recent research, 94% of British respondents admit to having conversed about the weather in the past six hours, while 38% say they have in the past 60 minutes. "This means at almost any moment in this country, at least a third of the population is either talking about the weather, has already done so or is about to do so," says social anthropologist Kate Fox, who performed the studies for an update of her book *Watching the English*.

— Do you think you should tune in to the weather? In what way?

— Do you know what weather to expect tomorrow?

The weather – and the British obsession with talking about it – has been puzzling outsiders for decades.

The book will help you to master your ability to talk about all the aspects of the weather.

To start with, study the words

PART 1. VOCABULARY

1) WEATHER

weather (n. U) - if you talk about the weather, you say whether it is hot or cold outside or whether it is raining, snowing, windy, etc.:

- What was the weather like on your vacation?
- We want to have a picnic on Saturday, but it depends on the weather.
- If the weather keeps fine till Saturday, we'll go to the forest to pick snowdrops.

hot / warm / wet etc. weather

- a period of warm sunny weather
- I don't feel like going to work on my bike in wet weather.

weather forecast - a report on television or radio saying what the weather will be like:

- Here is the weather forecast for Central Europe.
- What does the weather forecast say? - Scattered showers.

it (*pronoun*) - you can use it when you are saying what the weather is like:

- What is it like in Spain at this time of the year? Is it really hot?

it's lovely / nice / awful etc.

- Isn't it nice today?
- It is very close and humid today.

it's cold / sunny / cloudy etc.

- The weather forecast says it's going to be cloudy tomorrow.
- It is unbearably hot today.

climate (n. C) - the usual weather conditions in a particular country or area:

- Queensland has a warm tropical climate.
- ... flowers that will not grow in a cold climate.
- **arctic / continental / mild / moderate / tropical / subtropical / insular / dry / equable / wet / humid / damp / moist climate**

2) **GOOD WEATHER**

good weather - weather that is sunny and warm:

- We go to Greece every Easter, and we usually get good weather.

glorious / beautiful / gorgeous / marvellous (adj., especially spoken) - very sunny and warm:

- a beautiful sunny morning
- a glorious summer
- We had three weeks of absolutely gorgeous weather.
- What glorious weather we are having today!

nice / lovely / bright (adj., especially British) - pleasantly warm and sunny:

- Morning, Bill. Nice weather, isn't it?
- What lovely weather!

it is a nice / bright day / it's a lovely morning etc.

- It's a lovely day, why don't we go for a walk?

fine (adj.) - if the weather is fine, it is not raining and the sky is clear:

- Next week will be fine but a little cooler.
- a fine spring evening

dry (adj.) - if the weather is dry, it does not rain:

- If it stays dry, I'll hang out the washing.
- The dry weather will continue for several days.
- the dry season (dry - drier - driest)

sunny (adj.) - if the weather is sunny, the sun is shining:

- It is going to be sunny all day.
- a lovely sunny afternoon (sunny - sunnier - sunniest)

sunshine (n. U) - warm bright light from the sun:

- We sat on the patio enjoying the autumn sunshine.
- Northern regions will start dry with some sunshine.

in the sunshine

- The children ran out to play in the sunshine.

in the sun - where the sun is shining down:

- I'm just going to lie here in the sun and get a nice tan.

3) **BAD WEATHER**

bad weather - when it is raining a lot or very cold:

- The game was cancelled because of bad weather.

awful / terrible / horrible / nasty / beastly / filthy / wretched / hazy / dull /

dreary (adj., especially spoken) - very unpleasant, cold, wet etc.:

- Awful weather, isn't it?
- It's been absolutely horrible all day.
- What a dull day!
- The weather was so beautiful yesterday.

4) **WEATHER THAT CHANGED A LOT**

unsettled (adj.) - if the weather is unsettled, it keeps changing and it often rains:

- Tomorrow will continue unsettled, with showers in most areas.

changeable (adj.) - likely to change suddenly = variable:

- changeable weather with strong winds and some sunshine

5) **RAIN**

rain (n. U) - water falling from the sky in small drops:

- The rain was falling against the window.
- We haven't had a drop of rain ever since last month.
- The rain has laid the dust.
- It looks (feels) like rain.
- These clouds promise (omen) the rain.
- A drizzling piercing rain continued all day.
- The rain was accompanied by a strong wind.
- It's spotting with rain.

in the rain

- I like walking in the rain.
- I was (got) caught in the rain.
- I've been standing in the rain for an hour.

heavy rain / lot of rain / a pelting rain / a downpour / a torrent rain falls

= comes down from the sky

it's raining - use this to say that rain is falling:

- Look! It's raining again.
- Is it still raining?
- It rained all day yesterday.
- Take a coat in case it rains.
- It rained now and then.
- It keeps on raining.

it's raining hard / heavily (= raining a lot)

- It had been raining heavily and the ground was very soft.
- It's raining cats and dogs.
- It's raining pitchforks.

it's pouring (esp. spoken) - use this to say that it is raining very hard:

- As soon as I got outside it started pouring.
- It's pouring.
- It's coming on to pour.

it's pouring with rain

- It was pouring with rain, and she had forgotten her umbrella.

it's drizzling (esp. spoken) - use this to say that it is raining a little, with very small drops of rain:

- I think I'll walk to work, it's only drizzling.
- It drizzled a little and then ceased. Will it clear up do you think? a

drizzling rain = a drizzle

wet / rainy (adj.) - if the weather is wet or rainy, it rains a lot; if smth. is wet, it has a lot of liquid on it or in it; if someone is wet, their clothes and hair are wet.

- wet weather
- a rainy weekend in November
- It has been wet all week.
- You had better change out of those wet clothes.

- The grass was wet after the rain.

to get wet = to get caught in the rain

- Hurry up with the umbrella, I'm getting wet!

to be soaking wet / wet through = very wet

- A pipe has burst and the carpet was soaking wet.
- By the time the bus arrived, we were wet through.
- When it began raining I got caught in the rain and was soaking through.

to be all wet = very wet (wet - wetter - wettest)

- Oh no! My socks are all wet now!

to be (get) drenched / soaked (adj.) - if you are drenched or soaked you are extremely wet, so that drops of water are falling from your clothes:

- By the time we got home we were all drenched.
- I'm soaked through! I'll have to go and change.

to be (get) soaked to the skin = completely soaked

- I was exhausted, and soaked to the skin.
- I'm wet to the bone!
- I'm simply soaked through!
- I'm wet like a drowned cat!
- I've got a good ducking.

damp (adj.) - something that is damp is slightly wet:

- Clean the counter with a damp cloth.
- My hair was still damp.

Note: Use damp to say that something is wet especially in an unpleasant way:

- a dark, damp cellar

-It was a cold, damp, windy night.

- At first I hated the damp weather in Britain.

moist (adj.) - smth. that is moist is slightly wet, and this is the way it should be:

- Water the plants regularly to keep the soil moist.
- The cake mixture should be slightly moist, but not sticky.

soggy (adj.) - smth. that is soggy is softer than usual and looks or feels unpleasant, because it has become wet:

- horrible soggy toast
- He always leaves the towels in a soggy heap on the bathroom floor.

when the air feels wet = humid, damp

humid (adj.) - humid air or weather is hot and wet in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable:

- the humid heat of a tropical rainforest
- Summers in Tokyo are hot and humid.

shower (n. U) - a short period of light rain:

- It was just a shower, so we didn't get too wet.

heavy showers - when a lot of rain falls during short periods

- Heavy showers are forecast for the weekend.

torrent (n. C) - a large amount of water moving very rapidly and strongly in a particular direction; a raging torrent - a very violent torrent:

- After five days of heavy rain the Telle river was a raging torrent.

torrential rain = very heavy rain

the rainy season / the Monsoon (n. sing.) - a time when it rains a lot in hot countries

thaw (n. sing.) - a period of warm weather during which snow and ice melt:

- The thaw begins in March.

6) SNOW AND ICE

snow (n. U) - soft white pieces of frozen water that fall from the sky in cold weather:

- The tops of the mountains were still covered with snow.
- Large flakes of snow are falling.

snow falls

- Some snow is expected to fall on high ground.
- The snow is falling thick.

deep snow - a lot of snow that has fallen on the ground

- Tony and I trudged home through the deep snow.

it's snowing - use this to say that snow is falling:

- Look! It's snowing!
- Do you think it's going to snow tonight?

it's snowing heavily / hard - snowing a lot

- It snowed heavily all day long.

snowfall (n. C, U) - the amount of snow that falls, or the amount that falls in a particular period of time:

- Heavy snowfalls are forecast.
- We had a heavy snowfall.

snowdrift (n. C) - a deep mass of snow piled up by the wind:

- It's snowing hard. There are huge snowdrifts everywhere.
- Snowdrifts surrounded us from all sides. snowstorm (n. C) - a storm

with strong winds and a lot of snow

snowflake (n. C) - a small soft flat piece of frozen water that falls as snow:

- Snowflakes blind your eyes and you can hardly see a yard in front of you.
- Large flakes of snow are falling.

snowdrop (n. C) - a European plant with a small white flower which appears in early spring:

- If the weather keeps fine till Saturday, we'll go to the forest to pick snowdrops.

hail (n. U) - frozen raindrops that fall as small balls of ice:

- Hail was battering the roof of the car. sleet (n. U) - a mixture of snow and rain.

slush (n. U) - partly melted snow:

- The hailstones were turning into slush on the road.

frost - 1. (n. U) white powder that covers the ground when it is very cold (= hoar-frost)

- The grass and trees were white with frost.

1. (n. C) very cold weather, when water freezes:
 - It's pleasant when the frost lasts and there's a nip in the air.
 - The frost breaks.

late / early frost

- Even in May we can sometimes get a late frost.

sharp / hard / severe / ringing frost - extremely cold weather

- It was a ringing frost.
- Our pipes burst in the hard frost.

frosty (adj.)

- frosty winter mornings
- The air is frosty.

icy (adj.) - covered with ice and very slippery (icy / icier / iciest):

- Be careful! The roads are icy this morning.

icicle (n. C) - a long thin pointed piece of ice hanging from a roof / other surface:

- Look! The icicles are sparkling in the sun.

slippery (adj.) - a slippery surface is so smooth or wet or icy that it is difficult to stand or walk safely on it:

- Be careful! The floor is very slippery.
- Ice is making the roads slippery today.

7) CLOUDY

cloudy (adj.) - if the weather is cloudy, there are a lot of clouds in the sky.

- a cloudy day
- cloudy / cloudier / cloudiest

dull (adj.) - if the weather is dull, it is cloudy and there is no sunshine.

- It will be dry but dull this morning, with the possibility of showers later in the day.

grey (adj., especially written) - cloudy and not at all bright

- It was a grey winter morning.

to be overcast (with clouds) (adj.) - if the sky is overcast, it is very cloudy and dark, and there will probably be rain:

- I think it's going to rain, the sky is very overcast.
- The sky is overcast with heavy clouds.

cloud (n. C/U) - a white or grey mass in the sky, which rain falls from:

- There wasn't a single cloud in the sky.
- These clouds promise (omen) rain.
- The dark cloud covered the sky.
- The clouds are dispersing / lifting and the sun is appearing again.

thick / dense cloud = a lot of cloud

- Dense cloud prevented the rescue helicopter from taking off.

cloudless (adj.) - a cloudless sky is clear and bright:

- The sun is shining in a cloudless sky.

fog (n. U) - thick cloudy air near the ground, which is very difficult to see through:

- Watch out for patches of fog in low-lying areas.

thick / dense fog = a lot of fog

- Dense fog is making driving conditions difficult on many roads. the fog lifts / clears = it goes away

- The fog has almost cleared, our plane will be able to take off soon.

foggy (adj.)

- a foggy November evening

mist (n. U) - wet light cloud near the ground, which is difficult to see through clearly:

- The mist along the valley had gone by 10 o'clock.

misty (adj.)

- It may be misty in the east in the morning.

8) WINDY

windy (adj.) - if the weather is windy, there is a lot of wind:

- It was so windy that I could hardly walk straight.

wind (n. C/U) - a moving current of air near the ground:

- We walked home through the wind and rain.
- The wind is getting stronger.
- A cold biting wind almost swept me off my feet.

the wind blows

- A strong wind was blowing from the East.

in the wind

- The curtains flopped free in the wind.
- The flags fluttered gently in the wind.

strong / high / piercing wind

- Strong winds caused damage to many buildings.

a gust of wind = when the wind suddenly blows strongly:

- A sudden gust of wind blew the paper out of his hand.

a puff of wind / a breath of air = a sudden small movement of wind, air

- The weather was calm and there wasn't even a puff of wind.
- There is hardly a breath of air. Not a leaf is stirring.

breeze (n. C) - a gentle pleasant wind:

- A nice cool breeze came in off the sea.

slight / gentle breeze

- A gentle breeze ruffled her hair.

gale (n. C) - a very strong wind:

- The fence was blown down in the gale last night.

9) **HOT**

hot (adj.), hot / hotter / hottest

- Isn't it hot today?
- It was unbearably hot yesterday.
- We had three weeks of very hot weather.

heat (n. U) - hotness, warmth; when smth. is hot, especially the air in a room or outside:

- Several of her plants had died in the heat.

- In the desert, the heat of the day is soon lost when the sun goes down.
- The heat is so oppressive. I'm roasted alive!

boiling / scorching (adj., especially spoken) - extremely hot:

- It's boiling in here!
- It was scorching on the tennis court.

boiling hot / scorching hot

- a boiling hot day in August
- Open the door, it's boiling hot in here!

broiling (adj., American especially spoken) - weather that is broiling is very hot and makes you feel uncomfortable:

- The day of the pony race was broiling hot.
- the broiling heat of the Mississippi summer

sweltering (adj.) - weather that is sweltering is very hot and makes you feel tired and uncomfortable:

- Lucy came to call one sweltering afternoon in July.
- the sweltering summer of 1995

Note: sweltering is used especially in written descriptions.

heatwave (n. C) - a period of time when the weather is much hotter than usual:

- The heatwave continued throughout August and into September.
- We'll have a heatwave, I fear. warm (adj.) - slightly hot, especially

pleasantly:

- It was nice and warm in the sunshine.
- I'm looking forward to some warmer weather.
- These plants only grow in warm climates.

mild (adj.) - mild weather is pleasant because it is not as cold as it usually is:

- a mild winter
- It seems quite mild for February.

humid (adj.) - if the weather is humid, the weather is hot and wet in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable:

- Tokyo is very humid in summer.

sultry (adj.) - weather that is sultry is unpleasantly hot with no wind:

- How sultry the weather has become!

stifling (adj.) - a room or weather that is stifling is very hot and difficult to breathe in:

- How stifling the air is! I'm simply melting!

close (adj.) - very warm in a way that it is uncomfortable because there seems to be no air:

- It's very close and humid today.

drought (n. C/U) - a long period of dry weather when there is not enough water for plants and animals to live:

- We had a drought last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks. The earth became rock-hard and a lot of plants died.

10) COLD

cold (adj.)

- a cold January morning
- This is the coldest winter we've had for years.
- There was a very cold winter last year.

it's cold = the weather is cold

- Put your gloves on, it's cold outside today.

freezing cold = extremely cold

- It gets freezing cold at night in the mountains. bitterly cold = extremely cold and unpleasant

- a bitterly cold north wind
- It's bitterly cold today! I feel like ice in the snow.

the cold (n. singular) - cold weather; use this to emphasize how unpleasant and uncomfortable it is outside:

- Come in, don't stand out there in the cold.
- Come in out of the cold.

cool (adj.) - cold in a pleasant way, especially after the weather has been hot:

- a cool sea breeze

it's cool = the weather is cool

- Although the days are very hot, it's much cooler at night.

chilly (adj.) - rather cold, in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable:

- It was getting chilly outside, so we went back into the house.
- chilly / chillier / chilliest

frosty (adj.) - very cold, when everything is covered with a thin white layer of ice, and the sky is often very bright and clear:

- a bright frosty morning

freezing (adj.) - extremely cold, so that rivers, streams etc. turn to ice:

- The freezing weather continued all through February.
- It's freezing out here. Can't we go inside?

freezing cold = the weather is extremely cold:

- It was freezing cold outside and my hands were numb.

Note: Don't say «very freezing». Say «absolutely freezing».

a nip in the air = coldness in the air:

- There's a nip in the air.
- The air is nipping.

11) STORM

storm (n. C) - a period of very bad weather, when there is a lot of rain, wind, and sometimes thunder or lightning:

- The Spanish ships were wrecked in a storm.

rainstorm / snowstorm / icestorm

- Anderson disappeared in a snowstorm while climbing the Alps.

stormy (adj.)

- stormy weather
- The sky was starting to look stormy.

thunderstorm (n. C) - a storm when there is a lot of thunder and lightning:

- There was a spectacular thunderstorm that night.
- There is a thunderstorm hanging about.

thunder (n. U) - the loud crashing noise that you hear in a storm:

- They could hear thunder rumbling in the distance.
- There is a thunder cloud over there.
- It sounds like thunder.

clap of thunder / peal of thunder / roll of thunder = one sudden noise of thunder

- Peals of thunder were heard.

lightning (n. U) - a bright flash of light in the sky during a storm; flash of lightning

- A flash of lightning lit up the whole sky.

blizzard (n. C) - a storm with a lot of snow and strong winds:

- He had to drive home through the blizzard.
- A blizzard is a dangerous thing.

hurricane / typhoon (n. C) - a severe storm with very strong winds that causes a lot of damage:

- The hurricane devastated Florida and killed at least 40 people.

Note: Hurricanes happen in the Western Atlantic Ocean. Typhoons happen in the Western Pacific Ocean.

tornado (n. C) - a small but very violent part of a storm, in which a powerful twisting mass of air appears, causing a lot of damage. Tornadoes usually happen in the central area of the US:

- A tornado destroyed twelve homes in Ashport, Tennessee yesterday.

12) WE ARE IN FOR...

we are in for... : - a spell of good weather

- some rain, a storm, a frost
- We are in for a cold winter.

13) IDIOMS

Below is a list of the most commonly used idioms about the weather in English:

As right as rain: to feel fine and healthy.

- Don't worry about me, I'm as right as rain after my knee operation.

Be a breeze: to be very easy to do.

- Our English exam was a breeze. I'm sure I'll get top marks.

Be snowed under: to have so much to do that you are having trouble doing it all.

- I'm snowed under at work right now because two of my colleagues are on holiday.

Break the ice: to say or do something to make someone feel relaxed or at ease in a social setting.

- He offered to get her a drink to help break the ice.

Calm before the storm: the quiet, peaceful period before a moment of great activity or mayhem.

- The in-laws were about to arrive with their kids so she sat on the sofa with a cup of coffee enjoying the calm before the storm.

Chase rainbows: when someone tries to do something that they will not achieve

- I think she's chasing rainbows if she thinks she can get into Oxford with her bad grades.

Come rain or shine: you can depend on someone to be there no matter what or whatever the weather.

- I'll be there to help you move house come rain or shine.

Every cloud has a silver lining: There is always something positive to come out of an unpleasant or difficult situation.

- I got laid off from work yesterday, but every cloud has a silver lining and now I can spend more time writing my book.

Fair-weather friend: a person who is only your friend during good times or when things are going well for you but disappears when things become difficult or you have problems.

- She was a fair-weather friend because she wasn't interested in me once I had lost my job.

Get wind of: to learn or hear of something that should be a secret.

- He got wind of the closure of the company so started looking for a new job immediately.

Have your head in the clouds: to be out of touch of reality. Your ideas may not be sensible or practical.

- He has his head in the clouds if he seriously thinks he's going to get a promotion soon.

It never rains but it pours: when things don't just go wrong but very wrong and other bad things happen too.

- First he lost his keys to the house, then his wallet and then his car broke down. It never rains but it pours.

It's raining cats and dogs: it's raining very hard.

- Take you umbrella and a jacket because it's raining cats and dogs outside.

On cloud nine: to be extremely happy.

- They were both on cloud nine during their honeymoon.

Put on ice: to postpone for another day.

- The project has been put on ice until our boss decides what to do next.

Ray of hope: there is a chance that something positive will happen.

- There is a ray of hope after all, it looks like we won't be losing our jobs.

Save for a rainy day: to save for the future when it might suddenly be needed (unexpectedly).

- Don't spend your entire wage in one night. You should save for a rainy day.

Steal my thunder: when someone takes attention away from someone else.

- Don't wear that dress to the wedding; the bride won't like it because you'll be stealing her thunder.

Storm in a teacup: when someone makes a small problem larger than it really is.

- Those two are always arguing about something, it's just a storm in a teacup.

Storm is brewing: indication that something is about to become bad or explode

- You could tell by the looks on their faces that a storm was brewing.

Take a rain check: decline something now but offer to do it at a later date.

- Thanks for inviting me to dinner but I can't this week. Can I take a rain check on that?

Throw caution to the wind: to go crazy and forget all responsibilities or commitments.

- They threw caution to the wind and quit their jobs in the heat of the moment.

Under the weather: you are not feeling well

- Paul isn't coming with us because he feels a little under the weather.

PART 2.

EXERCISES

1. Read the tongue-twisters. Pay attention to the pronunciation. Learn them by heart.

1)

Whether the weather be fine, or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather, whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.

2)

When the weather is wet
We must not fret
When the weather is cold.
We must not scold
When the weather is warm
We must not storm.
But be thankful together
Whatever the weather

2. Read the phrases, paying attention to the pronunciation of the underlined letters:

Lightning and hail, rays of the sun; the skies are grey, stars shine in the darkness, the sky is overcast, harvest time, warm the earth, early in the morning, early autumn, meadows are covered, green grass, thunder, orchards, obliged.

3. Contrast the sounds in their length:

Winter sleep; fills the trees; with fresh grass; millions of stars; picked in the orchards; the days get shorter; leaves begin to fall from the trees; rivers and streams.

4. *Practise the sounds in the following word combinations:*

- A. 1. [ŋ] raining a little, wearing a mackintosh, carrying an umbrella, spreading over London, floating across the sky, having a flight;
2. [ʒɪ:] their first words, almost certain, the other person, turned ripe;
3. [əʊ — ɔɪ — ɒ] almost, can only crawl along, the ponds are frozen over, a fight with snowballs.
- B. 1. Alveolars replaced by dentals: read the weather-fore- cast, and the sun, but the English, about the weather, look at this.
c. Nasal plosion: it must be, it never, let me, like it now.
d. Loss of plosion: must be, what does it, but bright, spread to, it pours.

5. *Observe the cases of assimilation:*

Fills the trees; and the weather; fields and the meadows; but the rain is warm, and the fruit; in the orchards; and the nights; and the ground; at night; darkness; it gets dark; the longest days; the shortest night; does not last long; lightning; harvest time; picked; and brown; spend sore.

6. *Give the four forms of the following verbs:*

come, blow, drive, fall, feel, prefer, freeze, ski, put, sweep, hang, show, snow, sew, awake, sleep, build, stop, sit, read, warm, harvest, rain, drizzle, write, play, leave, begin, become.

7. *Give the degrees of comparison of the following adjectives and transcribe them:*

dark, heavy, hard, large, old, severe, pleasant, bad, good, strong, weak, little, far, near, late, clear, hot, warm, mild, beautiful.

8. *Read the text, mark the stress and tunes.*

FOUR SEASONS

The year is divided into four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. In spring nature awakens from her long winter sleep. The trees are filled with new life, the earth is warmed by the rays of the sun, and the weather gets gradually milder. The fields and meadows are covered with fresh green grass. The sky is blue and cloudless. At night millions of stars shine in the darkness.

When summer comes the weather gets warmer still and sometimes it's very hot. It's the farmer's busy season: - he works in his field from morning till night. The grass must be cut and the hay must be made, while the dry weather lasts. Sometimes the skies are overcast with heavy clouds. There are storms with thunder, lightning and hail.

Autumn brings with it the harvest-time when crops are gathered in and the fruit is picked in the orchards. The days get shorter and the nights longer. The woods turn yellow and brown, leaves begin to fall from the trees, and the ground is covered with them. The skies are grey and very often it rains.

When winter comes, we're obliged to spend more time indoors because out-of-doors it's cold. We may get fog, sleet and frost. Ponds, lakes, rivers and streams are frozen, and the roads are sometimes covered with slippery ice or deep snow. The trees are bare. Bitter north winds have stripped them of all their leaves.

9. *Give adjectives corresponding to the following nouns. Mind the spelling rules.*

e.g.: cloud-cloudy

Sun; fog; star; wind; snow; rain; chill, mud; dirt; ice; dust; storm; gloom; gloom; mist; noise; health; smoke.

10. Answer the questions.

- 1) What happens to nature in spring?
- 2) Why does the weather get gradually milder?
- 3) What are the fields covered with?
- 4) What fills the woods and the forests in spring?
- 5) What is the sky like?
- 6) What are the summer days and nights like?
- 7) It doesn't often rain in summer, does it?
- 8) Why is the sky sometimes overcast with clouds?
- 9) What does autumn bring with it?
- 10) Are the days in winter as long as in summer?
- 11) What is the ground covered with?
- 12) What is the weather like in winter?
- 13) Ponds and lakes are not frozen in winter, aren't they?
- 14) What are the trees like in winter?

11. Make the following sentences interrogative and negative:

1. It is as chilly today as it was yesterday.
2. The frost will be as hard tomorrow as it is today.
3. She is as fond of frosty weather as her brother is.
4. It has stopped raining.
5. She will be working when you come.
6. Pressure will remain high.

12. Ask one another questions on the following sentences and answer them in the negative. Add a sentence or two to develop a situation. Use conversational phrases:

1. It's coming on to pour.
2. There was a good fall of snow yesterday.
3. It's still freezing hard.
4. The rain fell heavily last night.
5. It was foggy yesterday morning.
6. It's clearing up.
7. The clouds are lifting.
8. I've got my folding umbrella with me.
9. A thunderstorm is coming.
10. I've just read the weather- forecast.

13. Put the adjectives and adverbs in brackets in the required degree of comparison:

1. Today the frost is (severe) than it was yesterday.
2. It snows (hard) this winter than it did last winter.
3. January is (cold) month of the year.
4. Which is (hot) month of the year?
5. Which is (beautiful) place in this part of the country?

14. Complete the following sentences using the words in brackets:

1. The sky will be clear if the wind ... (to stop).
2. I will go to the country if the weather ... (to be fine).
3. We will go to the skating-rink if the frost ... (to be not severe).
4. The snow will melt if the sun ... (to be hot).
5. You will feel warm if you (to put on) a warm coat.
6. He will ring you up when he (to come) home.
7. The days will be longer when summer (to come).

8. I will go home if it (to rain).
9. We look forward to the time when spring (to come).

15. Complete the following sentences and add something to develop a situation:

1. I shall go skiing if
2. The pond will be frozen over when
3. The farmers will reap the corn when
4. The un- pleasant time comes when
5. We shall go for a walk as soon as
6. I'll stay out-of-doors till
7. She'll be able to help you if she
8. He'll make good progress if
9. I shall put up my umbrella when
10. Don't go out before

16. What is the season?

1. It is not cold , but it is not hot . The days are short . The leaves on the trees are yellow . Children go to school.
2. It is cold. The days are short. Sometimes it rains. Sometimes it snows. There are no leaves on the trees. The children can skim and skate .
3. It is cold . The days are short . The nights are long. There is a lot of snow in the fields and in the streets . Children play snowballs in the yard.
4. It is cold , but sometimes it is warm. The weather's fine. There are first flowers in the fields and parks. We all like this season.
5. It is warm. Sometimes it is hot. The weather's usually fine . There are many flowers in the fields and parks. Children like this season very much.

17. Read the text. Describe the weather in every season.

“Seasons and Weather”

When two Englishmen meet, their first words will be "How do you do?" or "How are you?" And after the reply "Very well, thank you: how are you?" the next remark is almost certain to be about the weather. "It's a lovely morning, isn't it?" or "Isn't it hot today?" and the other person will reply "Yes, it's wonderful weather we are having. I hope it will keep fine, it seems almost too good to last".

Or perhaps the day is dull, it is raining a little, the sky is grey, and everyone is wearing a mackintosh or carrying an umbrella. As the cars and buses go along the street, they splash the water and mud on the passers-by.

Gradually it gets darker: a thick fog is spreading over London. The lamps are lit in the streets and in the shops and offices; cars and buses put on their lights and can only crawl along. As one friend bumps into another, he says, "Isn't it a beastly day?" "Yes", replies the other, you can hardly see yard in front of you".

Then comes winter. There has been a good fall of snow and a hard frost. It is just the day for a good country walk; let us have a tramp down the country lanes. The ground is like iron and rings under our feet, the frost sparkles on the branches, and icicles hang from the houses.

It is still freezing hard and the ponds are frozen over. There are crowds of people on them sliding and skating, and here is a merry group of schoolboys having a fight with snowballs. It is very pleasant while the frost lasts; the unpleasant time comes when the thaw begins.

A few months have passed and it is a beautiful spring day. The rain fell heavily last night, but now the soft white clouds are floating across the blue sky, and the sun is shining brightly. Raindrops and dewdrops shine on every small green leaf and every blade of young grass.

The farmer has ploughed his fields and the new corn is just beginning to appear above the ground. In a few months autumn and harvest time will come. When the corn has turned ripe and golden the farmer will reap it and put it in his barn.

18. Describe the pictures. Use as many words from Part 1 as possible.

Do you like the weather in the pictures?

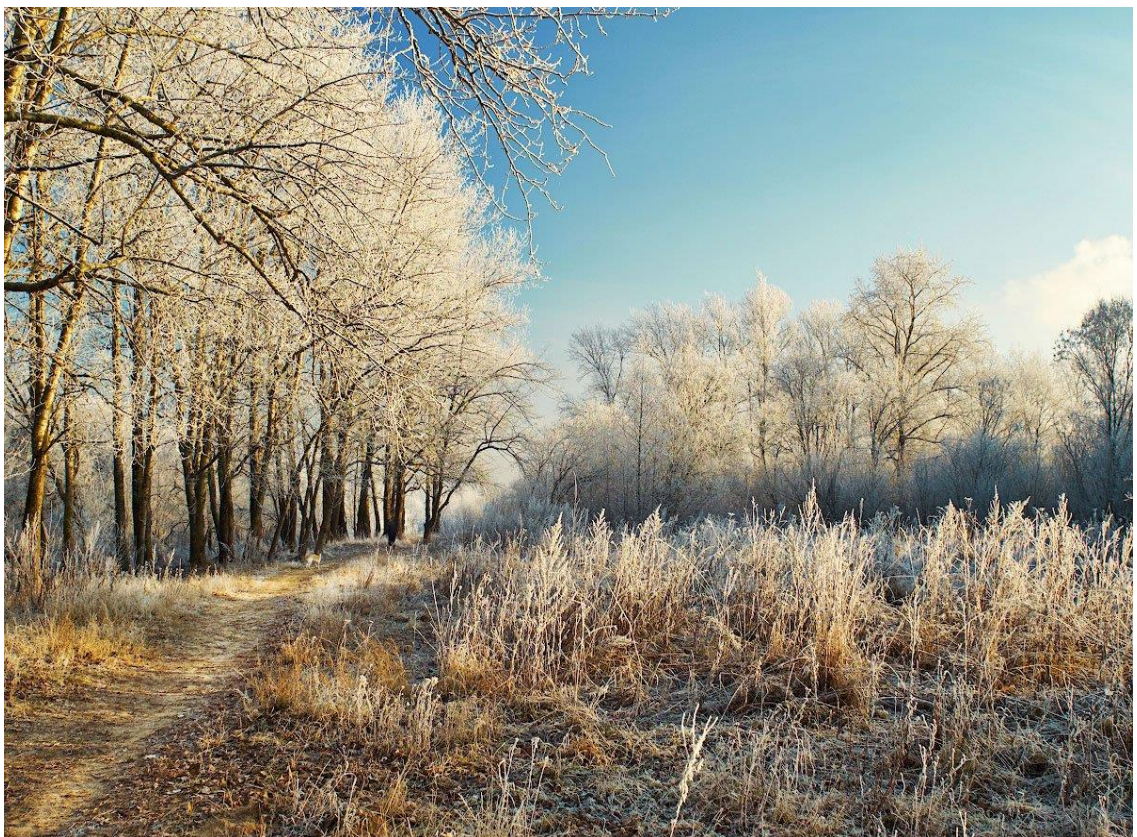
What is your favourite weather?



Picture 1.



Picture 2.



Picture 3.



Picture 4.



Picture 5.



Picture 6.



Picture 7.



Picture 8.



Picture 9.

19. Read the information. What are the main reasons of talking about the weather in Britain.

Why do people talk about the weather in Britain?

So why do the British do it? Is there something about the nation's weather that makes it worthy of discussion, or is it simply a cultural foible? And do any other nationalities share this peculiar conversational trait?

Several features of Britain's geography make the weather the way it is: mild, changeable, and famously unpredictable.

Britain's position at the edge of the Atlantic places it at the end of a storm track – relatively narrow zones over oceans that storms travel down, driven by the prevailing winds. “These storms are feeding on the temperature difference from the equator to the pole,” says Douglas Parker, joint Met Office professor of meteorology at the University of Leeds.

As the warm and cold air fly towards and over each other, the earth's rotation creates cyclones – and the UK bears the tail end of them.

Then there is the Gulf Stream, which makes the British climate milder than it should be, given its northern latitude, and the fact that the UK is made up of islands, meaning there is a lot of moisture in the air. “Water in the atmosphere makes the weather particularly unpredictable,” Parker says.

The variability means residents never know quite what to expect. Snow in summer? T-shirts in winter? Recently, the hottest-ever November day was recorded in mid-Wales, with temperatures hitting a balmy 22.4C. “It's much more unpredictable than the climate of many countries,” says Trevor Harley, chair of cognitive psychology at the University of Dundee, who runs a website devoted to the British weather. “There's always something happening – and if there isn't, there is the promise.”

It is these types of extremes that generate much of the debate on online forums about the British weather (yes, they do exist!). The British Weather Newsgroup, for

example, has been running since the mid-1990s and was started as a forum for enthusiasts to discuss scientific aspects of the British weather.

Today, almost all aspects of the weather are up for debate, although there are two major themes, says Harley. One is speculation about – and a desire for – severe weather, such as a traditional white Christmas – never mind the fact the UK has only experienced a widespread, Dickensian-like Christmas snow four times in the past 51 years. (The UK has only had a Christmas snow four times in the last 51 years, but that hasn't kept people from talking about it)

The other theme is nostalgia for the weather of the past, which Harley notes is often at odds with the reality. “In my memory, every summer's day in the 60s was hot and sunny with unbroken sunshine. In fact, this could only have been a few days in a few months; summers in the 60s were unusually cool and unsettled,” he says.

Many of the day-to-day conversations British people initiate about the weather, however, are more mundane. Comments like “cold, isn't it?” don't even particularly demand a full response; a grunt of agreement will suffice.

‘Weather talk helps us overcome social inhibitions,’ says Kate Fox

Fox has eavesdropped on hundreds of such weather-related conversations as part of her research. She concludes that they're less about the weather and more akin to the kind of physical grooming that occurs among our primate cousins. “Weather talk is a kind of code that we have evolved to help us overcome social inhibitions and actually talk to one another,” says Fox.

Even if you know it's raining out, British etiquette calls for you to phrase it as a question: ‘Raining again?’

In some situations, weather talk is an icebreaker. In others it's used to fill awkward silences, or divert the conversation away from uncomfortable topics. Often it's an excuse for a good old grumble, which can be a bonding experience in itself, but we can also use weather speak to gauge other people's moods: “Depending on their response to your weather greeting, you can tell if someone is in the mood for a chat, or is feeling grumpy and negative,” says Fox.

But there are certain unwritten rules that the British follow when conducting these weather-related conversations. Firstly, the topic will almost always be introduced as a form of question, even if only in the intonation (e.g., “Raining again?”). Secondly, the person answering must agree. “Failing to agree is quite a serious breach of etiquette. Or at least if you disagree, you have to express it in terms of a sort of personal foible,” says Fox. “If someone says: ‘Cold, isn’t it?’ and you say: ‘Well actually, no,’ the person would be a bit taken aback, and feel that that was a discourteous thing to say.”

Of course, these kinds of purely social conversations also occur in other cultures. But both the nature of the conversation – and their content – will vary. Derek Bousfield, an expert in language and impoliteness at Manchester Metropolitan University, explains that in every culture, individuals tread a delicate balance. On the one hand, they want approval by other members of society and to forge closer bonds with others. On the other, they desire to be autonomous and left alone.

Countries that privilege positive face will choose personal topics, such as someone’s age or weight, as an appropriate icebreaker

Academics call these opposing needs a ‘positive face’ and ‘negative face’, respectively, and most societies privilege one over the other. “British people stereotypically favour negative face (the desire to be unimpeded) over positive face (the desire to be approved of), although we still have a sense of positive face,” says Bousfield. “For instance, getting on the bus and ignoring someone you know would be an affront to positive face, and cause interpersonal issues. But negative face” – which in this example, might mean not intruding on a stranger’s personal space, or refraining from starting an unwanted conversation – “has greater weight.”

When it comes to small talk, countries that privilege positive face will choose personal topics, such as someone’s age, weight or what they do for a living, as an appropriate icebreaker. That explains why people from some cultures – including the Middle East, China, Southeast Asia, South America and the United States – will ask questions that British people might find rude at worst or a tad forward at best, says Bousfield.

A country like Britain, on the other hand, will choose a safe and personally unobtrusive topic – such as the weather.

So, for a country like Britain, which privileges personal space, the weather provides a safe topic of conversation.

Japan, Switzerland and Finland are other examples of negative face cultures. And certainly in Japan, another island nation with unpredictable weather, the weather and the seasons are common conversation topics.

The Swiss and Finns, though, are not quite as obsessed, possibly because there's less to talk about. In Finland, for example, you can bond with people simply by sitting and drinking with them; you don't even have to talk much, says Bousfield. "When you do this in the depth of winter – where Helsinki has underground tunnels so the shops can still operate even in deep snow – what weather is there to talk about?" he says. "Everyone knows it's only going to be ice and snow for up to four, five or sometimes six months, so why talk about it?"

In Britain, on the other hand, we can be wrapped up against the elements on Saturday; picnicking in shorts and t-shirt on Sunday; and battling torrential rain on Monday. That's just the way it is here.

Cold, isn't it?

- foible ['fɔɪbl] слабость, слабая струнка, недостаток (характера)
- latitude ['lætɪt(j)u:d] широта
- mundane [mʌn'deɪn] земной, мирской, светский
- grunt [grʌnt] ворчание, бормотание
- suffice [sə'faɪs] быть достаточным, хватать; удовлетворять
- inhibition [ˌɪnhɪ'bɪʃ(ə)n] подавление, сдерживание; комплекс
- eavesdrop ['i:vzdrɒp] подслушивать
- akin [ə'kɪn] родственный, близкий, родной, похожий, сходный
- discourteous [dɪs'kɜ:tɪəs] невоспитанный, неучтивый, невежливый
- unobtrusive [ˌʌnəb'tru:sɪv] ненавязчивый, скромный

20. *Write a gist of the text.*

21. *Do people in Russia talk about the weather? When? Why? Are the reasons similar to those mentioned in the text?*

22. *Read the following passage from “Three Man in a Boat” by J.K.Jerome.*

I remember a holiday of mine that was completely ruined one late autumn because we took the weather report of the local newspaper seriously. “There may be heavy showers, with thunderstorms today”, it said and so we gave up our picnic, and stayed indoors all day, waiting for the rain. And people were passing the house, jolly and merry as could be; the sun was shining, and not a cloud was seen.

“Ah,” we said, “how wet they are going to get!”

By twelve o’clock, the heat became quite oppressive, and we wondered when those heavy showers and occasional thunderstorms were going to begin. But not a drop ever fell, and it was a great day, and a lovely night after it.

The next morning we read that it was going to be a “warm fine day, much heat”, and we dressed ourselves in light things and went out, and, half-an-hour after we had started, suddenly it began to rain hard, and a bitterly cold wind went blowing, and both kept on steadily for the whole day. We came home with colds all over us, and went to bed.

The weather is a thing that is beyond me altogether. I never can understand it.

(Adapted from “Three Men in a Boat” by Jerome K. Jerome)

23. *Have you ever had a similar experience of your own to show what trick a weather forecast may play on a person? Tell about it.*

24. *Explain the meaning of the proverb: “It never rains but it pours” and give a situation to illustrate it.*

25. *Find English proverbs concerning weather, provide them with Russian equivalents, ask your fellow- students to illustrate them.*

24. *Fill in prepositions or adverbs:*

- A.
1. Be careful! Don't splash mud ... passers-by.
 2. A thick fog is spreading ... the city and though cars and buses have put... their lights they can only crawl
 3. It is pleasant to look ... the trees when the frost sparkles ... the branches.
 4. There is a bridge ... the river.
 5. The rivers and lakes freeze ... winter.
 6. I don't like to be out-of-doors ... such bad weather. I prefer to stay... home.
 7. Let us have a tramp ... the country lanes.
 8. The new corn is just beginning to appear ... the ground.
 9. The ground is usually covered ... snow winter.
- B.
1. The temperature is 25o ... zero ... the shade today.
 2. Look ... the sky. There is hardly a cloud ... it.
 3. A heat wave will spread ... the south-west ... Moscow.
 4. It's beginning to rain. Put ... your umbrella.
 5. The rain is ... and it's clearing
 6. The weather is getting worse. The sun is going
 7. Look ...picture ... page 25. What do you see ... the picture?
 8. It's pouring. We shall be wet
 9. My aunt will stay ... our place... two months.

25. *Complete the following sentences using the words in brackets:*

1. The sky will be clear if the wind ... (to stop).
2. I shall go to the country if the weather ... (to be fine).

3. We shall go to the skating-rink if the frost ... (to be not severe).
4. The snow will melt if the sun ... (to be hot).
5. You will feel warm if you (to put on) a warm coat.
6. He will ring you up when he (to come) home.
7. The days will be longer when summer (to come).
8. I shall go home if it (to rain).
9. We look forward to the time when spring (to come).

26. *Choose the right word:*

to stay — to remain

1. I have done three exercises and two
2. The place was so nice that we decided to ... there all the summer.
3. Few leaves... on the trees and they are not green any longer.
4. He was so tired that he ... in bed all day long.
5. The teacher tried to make the boy speak but he ... silent.
6. It was raining so hard that I ... at my friend's the whole night.

such — so

1. She was ... tired that she couldn't go on working.
2. I never go for ... long walks.
3. I didn't know that it was ... an interesting book.
4. The student spoke English ... badly that the teacher couldn't give him even a satisfactory mark.
5. The weather was... nasty yesterday that I stayed at home all day long.
6. It rained... hard yesterday that I got wet through.

27. *Respond to the following sentences. Develop them into dialogues. Use conversational phrases and hesitation devices:*

1. It looks like rain.

2. It's pouring, what shall we do?
3. What nasty weather we are having today!
4. It's a lovely morning, isn't it?
5. Isn't it a hot day?
6. It's wonderful weather we are having. I hope it will keep fine.
7. What a tremendous clap of thunder!
8. Look! It's clearing up.

28. Read the following text. Give a title to the story. Retell the story:

The weather in England can change very quickly. One day last week I went for a walk in the country. When I started early in the morning the weather was beautiful. The sun was shining, the sky was blue and there were no clouds at all. In the middle of the morning a sudden change came. A cool wind started to blow, black clouds covered the sun and in a very short time it started to rain heavily. There were no houses in sight and I had no coat with me. So I got very wet indeed and very cold too. After about an hour I managed to catch a bus which took me home. But when I arrived I was shivering and sneezing and I've had a cold ever since. We sometimes say that England is the only country where you can have four seasons in one day.

29. Translate the following into English:

1. Сегодня не такой туман, как вчера. Вчера туман был такой густой, что я боялась ехать на машине и предпочла идти в театр пешком.
2. Неприятно гулять, когда небо покрыто тучами и идет дождь, а автобусы и машины забрызгивают прохожих водой и грязью.
3. Какая сегодня скверная погода! Моросит дождь, и улицы такие грязные.
4. Небо потемнело, и с моря начал дуть холодный ветер. Но сегодня ветер не такой сильный, как вчера. Вчера он был гораздо сильнее.

5. Сильно подмораживает. Скоро пруд замерзнет, и мы сможем кататься на коньках.

6. Парк выглядит так прекрасно, когда земля покрыта снегом, а на деревьях сверкает иней.

7. Я не слышала прогноза погоды сегодня и не знаю, будет ли сегодня дождь. Если дождя не будет, я обязательно поеду за город.

8. Погода становится теплее, я думаю, что скоро зацветут (будут в цвету) фруктовые деревья.

9. Зерно начинает созревать. Скоро начнется уборка. Некоторые студенты поедут помогать убирать урожай.

10. Возьми плащ или зонт. Погода может измениться.

11. Сегодня очень холодно. Тебе придется остаться дома. Если ты выйдешь, ты опять простудишься и не сможешь посещать школу.

12. Я думаю, что он вам не позвонит до того, как вернется в Москву.

13. Завтра утром приезжает мой брат. Я не знаю, получу ли от него телеграмму, но даже если не получу, я поеду на вокзал встречать его.

14. Мы сможем обсудить наши планы в понедельник.

15. Вы не должны учить это стихотворение наизусть, пока вы не отработаете его в лаборатории.

16. Она не знает, закончит ли свою статью сегодня. Если закончит и если сегодня не будет дождя, мы пойдем в театр.

17. Я буду рада, если дождь прекратится. Мне надо торопиться на вокзал.

18. Через час начнут прибывать первые делегаты.

19. В Англии поля и парки остаются зелеными даже зимой.

20. Посмотри! Выпало много снега. Завтра дети будут кататься на санках и лепить снеговика.

21. Как красиво! Капельки дождя и росы сверкают на листьях и на траве.

22. Я думаю, что дождь не будет продолжаться очень долго и мы сможем пойти в лес собирать грибы и ягоды.

23. Сегодня очень душно. Боюсь, что скоро будет гроза.

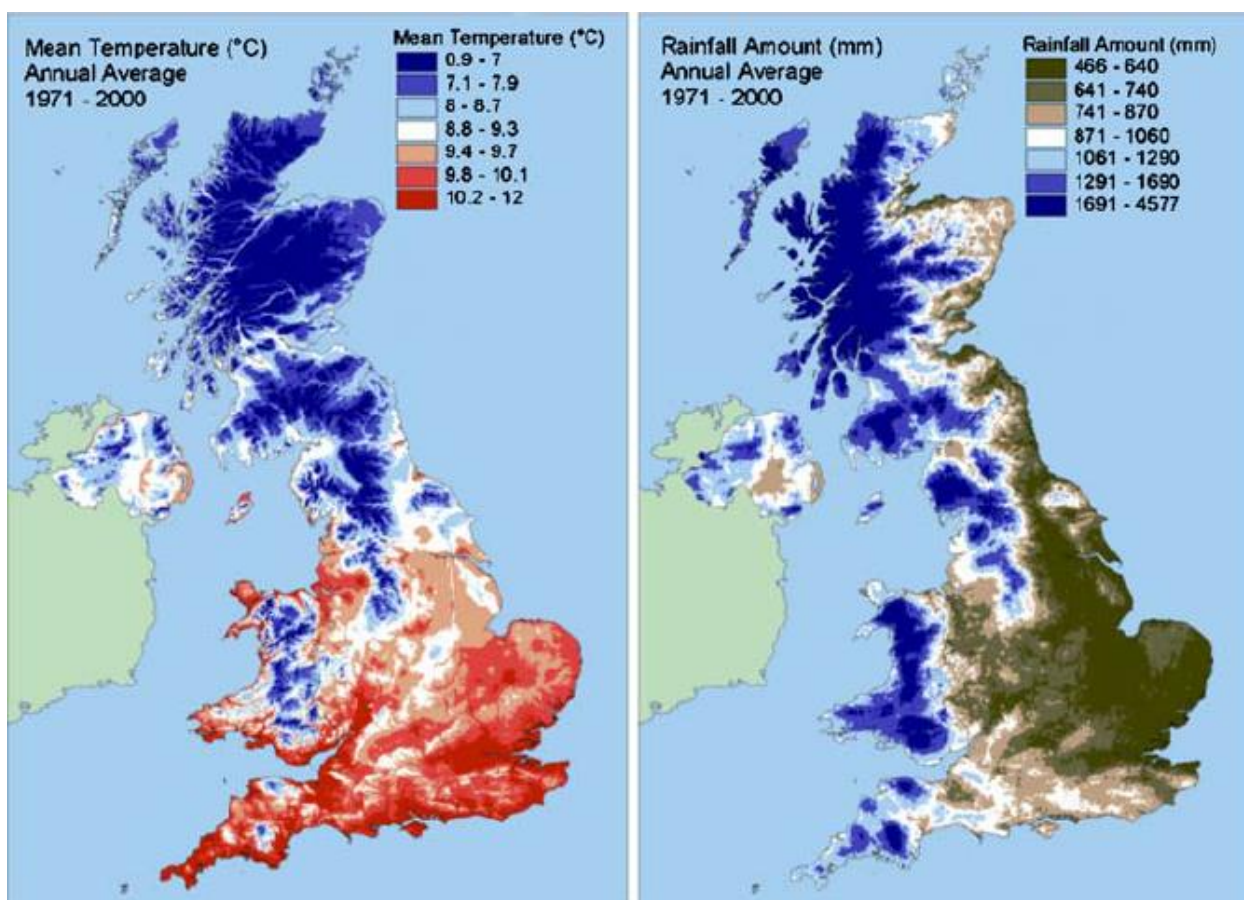
24. Эти ужасные раскаты грома разбудили меня ночью. Дождь лил как из ведра всю ночь.

25. Посмотри! Дождь перестал. Облака рассеялись. На небе красивая радуга. Надеюсь, будет хорошая погода.

26. Согласно прогнозу погоды на этой неделе изредка будут выпадать дожди.

27. Идет сильный дождь, раскрой зонтик, а то ты совершенно промокнешь.

30. *Look at the maps of the UK. What can you tell about the temperature and the rainfall?*



Maps of mean temperature and rainfall amount.

31. *Act out the dialogues.*

1.

A. You got caught in the rain, didn't you?

B. Just a little. The shower came on all of a sudden, but I was already near home.

A. It didn't look like rain at all this morning, did it? But you never can tell...

B. I usually carry an umbrella all the time in season. But I forgot to take it this morning

A. Bad luck!

B. Yes. As they say, it's sure to rain if you don't take an umbrella.

A. That's right.

2.

A. Look at those clouds. How black they are! There's a thunderstorm coming on. Aren't you afraid?

B. Oh no! I like it. Oh, look, what a flash of lightning!

A. Yes, and there's a clap of thunder. The first thunder this year.

B. Shall I turn off the TV?

A. What? The thunder is so loud, I can't hear you.

B. I say, shall I turn off the TV? Mom says it's better to turn it off during a thunderstorm.

A. Yes, do. And I'll shut the window. A gust of wind may break the pane.

B. Oh, what a shower!

A. It's good. It will lay the dust and revive the flowers in the garden.

PART 3. SEASONS

- 1. Read the information from evanevanstours.com. When is it best to visit Britain? Why? What part of the country would you like to visit? Why? When?*

What's British weather REALLY like?

What's the most common opening line in a British conversation? "What's the weather going to be like tomorrow?", or, "The weather's great/horrible/rainy/lovely today".

And why is that? Simply, because the climate here is incredibly varied and unpredictable. The weather can change drastically from day to day and between different regions, despite being a relatively small island.

The plus side? Regardless of your weather preferences, if you don't like it one day, there's a good chance you'll like it the next. And there's no need to worry – contrary to popular belief, it doesn't rain every day here in the UK.

Let's take a look at how British weather varies from season to season and region to region. What's British weather REALLY like?

Seasons

We've got four seasons of a fairly equal length – each around 3 months long. Our seasonal differences might not be as extreme as in some countries, but there's still a significant difference between winter and summer.

They do tend to overlap though and often don't follow the expected pattern. Yep, that means we sometimes get a warm, bright, sunny day in February and or cold temperatures and freezing rain in the middle of summer! British weather is anything but predictable.

Winter – December, January, February

Brrrr.... get out your bobble hats, coats and scarves! Winter is the coldest month in the UK, with temperatures often dropping well below freezing. There's often frost covered lawns and fields every morning, ice-covered car windscreens and sometimes snow.

Our winter is characterised by unsettled, windy and wet weather – which is worse for those living in the Northern and Western parts of the UK. The coldest month of the year in the UK is January, and December sees the least sunshine.

Hours of daylight are very short in Britain during the winter, with London seeing no more than 8 hours daylight at the end of December – but it's okay, because the streets are brightened up with thousands of Christmas lights!

It might be a little cold, but don't be scared of visiting us during the winter. It's lovely and festive and we've got tons of cosy pubs, interesting museums and fascinating art galleries. Plus, you can even ski up in Scotland if that's more your thing!

Spring – March, April, May

Come March, the temperatures start to lift and the sun which we've been craving begins to peak through. Spring is well-known in the UK for its beautiful meadows of spring flowers and blooming, colourful spring garden and is a great time to visit.

Although it's not often bitterly cold like the winter, it's not quite time for sunglasses and shorts, as spring can be rather wet and windy. Sometimes we're lucky and have a calm, dry spell – we're always crossing our fingers! It can be as cold as 3°C in March and as hot as 30°C in May – do you understand what we mean by 'varied' now?!

Summer – June, July, August

Who doesn't love summer? And for the Brits, who battle cold temperatures and rain for most of the year, summer's got to be our favourite season. Temperatures

can soar up to 32°C in the summer (for us, that's hot!), though the average summer high in London is around 21°C.

On average in the UK, July is the warmest month of the year but June is the sunniest. The total rainfall varies from year to year – sometimes we'll have little, but sometimes we'll have a week of showers. It's truly hard to predict.

We sometimes experience anticyclones which give us long, warm, spells of weather and create heatwave-like conditions.

Here's a fun British summer fact for you – the highest temperature ever recorded in Britain is 38.5°C in Brogdale, Kent, on the 10th August 2003.

Autumn – September, October, November

When we start to see the leaves turning golden and the nights getting shorter, it's a sure sign Autumn is here, marking the gradual change from summer to winter. This is the season with the biggest range of weather conditions – September and October can sometimes feel summery but can equally get pretty chilly.

The UK has experienced large amounts of snowfall in the month of November, and it's usually rather chilly and windy throughout as Atlantic depressions move over the UK. During the autumn equinox, a day and night are almost equal length of roughly 12 hours each due to the sun shining directly on the equator.

The average London temperature in September is 16°C, dropping to around 10°C in November. So although you'll still need to wrap up for the British autumn, it's a great time to visit – the golden, brown autumn colours are absolutely beautiful.

Regions

Planning a visit to the North of England in the winter? Pack layers! The further North you go, the colder and windier it's likelier to be. Rain-wise, it varies. The North West tends to get quite a significant amount of rain, but the North East has much less.

Southern England is the warmest area of the UK, with less rain and higher temperatures than all over regions. The closer to the coast you are, the cooler temperatures you're likely to experience due to the closeness to the Atlantic Ocean. The urban landscape of London means that temperatures are often the hottest in the country.

West of England and Wales have warm summers and mild winters due to its close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean – sounds great, right? Not quite – they have a lot of rain as a trade in.

Scotland is the coldest part of the UK – there's no doubt about it! The average winter temperature is just -0.2°C and it's also the wettest place in the UK every month except May, June and December. You should totally still visit, though – remember that this average is pulled down quite a bit by the Highlands.

2. *Describe the weather in Russia.*

3. *Compare the weather in Russia and the weather in Britain.*

4. *Read about the weather in Thailand. What is it like? How many seasons are there? What is the best time to visit the country?*

Thailand holidays are tropical, warm and humid practically all year round although seasonal changes do occur throughout the north and south. Thailand's climate is characterised by high temperatures, high levels of humidity and plenty of sunny days, except during the monsoon when the majority of rainfall occurs.

It's important to dress for the climate when visiting Thailand and despite the heat and humidity, visitors are advised to respect the local culture by not wearing clothing that is particularly revealing, particularly if you are heading outside the main tourist areas or to places of worship. Light clothing is best and if you are unsure if your attire is appropriate, the staff at your resort can assist you.

NORTH V SOUTH

Northern Thailand experiences three distinct seasons: a cooler season, the dry season and the monsoon or 'wet' season. From November to February the weather is dry and cooler while from March to May temperatures are high. May to November is the wet season, with heavy rainfall caused by the southwest monsoon.

Southern Thailand really only experiences two seasons: wet and dry, however they do not occur at the same time on both sides of the peninsular. To the west, the monsoon brings storms and heavy rain during April to October however in the east, the majority of rainfall occurs from September to December. Overall though, southern Thailand receives 2,400ml of annual rainfall compared to just 1,400ml in central and northern Thailand.

SEASONS

Generally Thailand only experiences two seasons, the hot and dry summer and the humid monsoon season. Summer falls from March to June and temperatures are quite high, averaging around 34°C and reaching a maximum of 40°C. Humidity reaches 75% and April is historically Thailand's hottest month.

The monsoon season occurs from July to October and although temperatures are a little lower, around 29°C, humidity reaches around 90%. The majority of Thailand's annual rainfall occurs during this time, occasionally causing flooding. An unpredictable season, the monsoon only ends when dry weather from the northeast is brought on by a change in wind direction.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

The best time to visit Thailand is between November and February, when the weather is sunny, mild and less humid. The north easterly monsoon breezes cool the country, bringing temperatures down to around 18°C in places like Bangkok and even as low as 8°C – 12°C in north and north-eastern Thailand.

However these lower temperatures are generally only experienced at night and in higher altitude areas. The majority of days in Thailand are warm yet comfortable

and offer the perfect weather for sightseeing, shopping and of course enjoying Thailand's beautiful beaches and water activities.

5. Read the information about the weather in Egypt. When is it better to see the country? What clothes would you recommend to take to the trip?

Egyptian Weather

The Egyptian summer is hot and dry in most of the country, and humid in the Delta and along the Mediterranean Coast. In recent years the humidity has spread to Cairo, and the city swelters in August! Winter is mild with some rain, but usually, it is bright, sunny days with cold nights.

During the summertime, sun protection is the most important single consideration for an Egypt trip, especially for the fair-skinned. Wearing a sunhat is essential. Cheap, and pure cotton, sunhats are made locally and available everywhere. Travel clothing should be light and comfortable, 100% cotton clothing is the best and dependable shoes are a must! The climate of Egypt is characterized by a hot season from May to October and a cool season from October to May. Extreme temperatures during both seasons are moderated by the prevailing northern winds.

In the coastal region average annual temperatures range from a maximum of 37° C (99° F) to a minimum of 14° C (57° F). Wide variations of temperature occur in the deserts, ranging from a maximum of 46° C (114° F), during daylight hours, to a minimum of 6° C (42° F) after sunset. During the winter season, desert temperatures often drop to 0° C (32° F).

The most humid area is along the Mediterranean coast, where the average annual rainfall is about 200mm. Precipitation decreases rapidly to the south; Cairo receives on average only about 29mm of rain each year, and in many desert locations it may rain only once in several years!

There are 5 days called Khamsin between March and April, when sandstorms can occur sporadically, blowing in different places according to the wind direction. Remember to cover your head at all times!

Winter weather (between October and May) is colder than most people anticipate, and cold winds blow over the desert at sunrise and sunset. Even when it is warm outside, it can be surprisingly cold inside the massive stone temples. In winter, showers can fall everywhere, so bring a few items of light but warm clothing, so that you can cope with the cold early mornings and the occasional, and unseasonable, cold snap.

6. Read the information about the weather in New Zealand and in the Czech Republic and compare their seasons. What is the main difference?

Weather in **New Zealand** can be unpredictable. Locals like to joke that you can experience four seasons in one day! Find out what to expect from the weather during your visit.

New Zealand's climate varies wildly. The far north has subtropical weather during summer, while inland alpine areas of the South Island can be as cold as -10°C (14°F) in winter.

However, most of the country lies close to the coast, which means mild temperatures year-round.

The average New Zealand temperature decreases as you travel south. January and February are the warmest months, and July is the coldest month of the year.

When is the best time to visit New Zealand?

Summer is the most popular time to visit New Zealand. Over December, January and February, the number of visitors increases, as people arrive from overseas to travel while the weather is warm. Summer holidays mean more Kiwis are travelling New Zealand too, making the most of the sunshine and Christmas break.

If you would prefer to enjoy sunny days, but with fewer crowds, the best time to go to New Zealand is in autumn. From March to May the weather is still reasonably warm – particularly in the north – but the crowds have thinned out. As autumn is also the shoulder season, you can enjoy better rates on accommodation and activities.

Winter in New Zealand is the best time to visit if you're enthusiastic about snow sports. With a light dusting of snow, Queenstown and the Central Plateau are transformed into winter wonderlands. If you want to ski or snowboard your way down the slopes of the Southern Alps, the best month to visit New Zealand is either July or August.

Spring arrives in September and lasts until November. Although there is still a high chance of rainfall around this time of year, the weather starts to warm up – it's the perfect time of year to enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking. Spring is also when calves, lambs and daffodils pop up in New Zealand's green fields, so it's an incredibly picturesque time. Cool nights and warm days are common, which makes for pleasant travel weather.

- Kiwi - новозеландец

Spring: September – November. Average daytime temperature: 16 - 19°C

Summer: December – February. Average daytime temperature: 20 - 25°C

Autumn: March – May. Average daytime temperature: 17 - 21°C

Winter: June – August. Average daytime temperature: 12 - 16°C

The climate in **the Czech Republic** is moderately continental, with cold winters, during which the temperature is often below freezing, and warm summers, during which nights remain cool.

Precipitation is fairly frequent, but it's not abundant in most of the country, amounting to around 400/500 millimeters (15/20 inches) per year. However, being scarcer in the winter months (when plants are at rest) and more abundant in late spring and summer, it is generally sufficient for agriculture.

During winter, from December to February, in Prague and in the other Czech cities, temperatures hover around freezing (0 °C or 32 °F) or just below, the weather is often dull and cloudy, and light snowfalls can occur. On the contrary, outbreaks of cold from Russia can bring intense frosts, with temperatures dropping to -20/-25 °C (-4/-13 °F) in the worst moments.

In spring, from March to May, the weather is unstable, and the first warm days alternate with the return of cold weather: frosts and snowfalls can still occur in April, especially in the first part of the month. There's usually a turning point in the second half of May, when the maximum temperatures regularly reach or exceed 18/20 °C (64/68 °F), and the weather becomes enjoyable.

Summer, from June to August, is usually warm. There is a moderate amount of sunny days, during which showers or thunderstorms can erupt in the afternoon. Even in mid-summer, there can be cool and rainy days, with highs around 20 °C (68 °F), but also hot periods, during which the temperature may exceed 30 °C (86 °F) for a few days. However, temperatures are usually pleasant, with highs around 22/24 °C (72/75 °F) and lows around 12/13 °C (54/55 °F).

Autumn, which goes from September to November, is initially pleasant in the first half of September, and then becomes progressively more cloudy and cold, with fairly frequent rains.

7. Make up dialogues. Using the information from the texts decide where to go.

1. You are friends. Decide where you will spend 10 days in May.
2. You are newlyweds. You are planning your honeymoon in September.
3. You are a mother and a child of 10. Where will you go for Christmas?
4. You are both over 60. Where will you go for 2 weeks?
5. You are students. You plan your summer holidays.
6. You want to go along. Ask your friend for advice.

8. *What is the difference between seasons in Central Europe and in Asia?*
9. *What is your favourite season? Why? What do you like doing outdoors?*
10. *Characterize your mood in different seasons.*
11. *Is the weather predictable in all the seasons nowadays? Give examples.*
12. *What is the students' busiest season? Why?*
13. *What is the farmers' / gardeners' busiest season? Why?*

PART 4. WEATHER FORECAST

1. Act out the dialogues.

1.

-Hello, Charles.

- Hello, Dick, lovely day, isn't it?

- Absolutely wonderful, nice and warm. What's the weather forecast for tomorrow? Do you know?

- Yes, it says it will be bright and sunny.

- How nice. Nice weather for outing.

- You are right.

2.

- Oh, that's you Tony. What is it like outdoors?

- It seems to be clearing up.

- What do you mean by clearing up?

- A big improvement on what we've been having. Quite different from the forecast.

- They say we are in for snow. It's supposed to cloud over this afternoon.

Let's hope it keeps fine for the weekend.

3.

- It's a beautiful morning, isn't it?

- Oh, yes, most lovely. There isn't a cloud in the sky and the sun is shining brightly. I'm afraid it may be very hot in the afternoon.

- It's 20° C now. I've just heard on the radio the temperature may rise to 29° C in the afternoon.

- It wouldn't be very nice. I can't stand such heat. I'm simply melting.

- Well, as for me, I like hot weather better than cold.

- I can't stand cold weather either.

4.

- Good morning, Mrs Williams. How are you this morning?
 - I'm quite all right, thank you, Mr Jones. And how are you?
 - Fine, too, thank you. Nice day, isn't it?
 - Absolutely lovely. Much warmer than yesterday, I believe, though a bit misty. Have you heard the weather forecast for today by the way?
 - Yes, I have. It says the early morning mist is to clear before noon and the rest of the day will be bright and sunny with the temperature between 15° C and 17° C.
- C.
- Good, what's the outlook for tomorrow?
 - It says there will be little change, so I believe we may have a few fine days after all.
 - Splendid. A fine weekend is just what we all need, don't we?
 - Oh, yes, quite true. Good-bye, Mrs Williams.
 - Good - bye, Mr Jones.

5.

- Well, I can't get used to such weather. It can change several times a day. It may be hot in the morning and very cold in the evening
- Yes, that's just what happened yesterday.
- And weather forecasts aren't very helpful, are they?
- No, not very often. But there's nothing to be done, you'll have to put up with it.

6.

- Hello, John!
- Good after-noon, Alex! Nice to hear from you! Are you right? It seems to me that your voice chanced.
- I've caught a cold.
- Oh! I for-got that now it's so cold in your country.

- It's very cold. Besides, the strong wind blows.
- What's the temperature?
- It's 12 degrees below zero.
- Is it snowing?
- No, now it isn't.
- But it was snow-storm 3 days ago.
- It's difficult to imagine such weather conditions.

7.

Good morning, dear neighbor!

- Good morning, Ann! What a nice morning!
- The sun is coming out. It will be a sunny day.
- I think there are no clouds in the sky. I think it will not rain.
- I hope so, but it's a windy day. We have to dress warmly.
- I agree. Now it is easy to catch cold.

2. *Read the weather forecast*

London

Dry with clear skies and a fairly widespread frost overnight.

This Evening and Tonight:

After a fine end to the day, it will quickly turn chilly this evening. Overnight will stay dry with clear skies, and with generally light winds another chilly night with a fairly widespread ground frost, especially in rural areas. Minimum temperature -2 °C.

Friday:

Another fine, dry day with plenty of sunshine and generally light winds. Feeling warm with afternoon temperatures a little higher than on Thursday. Breezier along the south coast. Maximum temperature 18 °C.

Outlook for Saturday to Monday:

Occasionally cloudier, especially near the coast, but still with sunny spells and predominantly dry. Cooler by day, with a more noticeable easterly breeze developing, and still chilly overnight.

A settled regime will likely be in place across much of the country at first with high pressure likely to be centred to the west or northwest of the UK. However, there is the threat of some rain and a few showers in the north and east, as well as the chance of some rain moving up from the south and affecting southern parts of the country later. Throughout this period, there is also a continued threat of rural frost and patchy fog where winds fall light. Temperatures are quite uncertain depending on where the area of high pressure resides, particularly in the east where temperatures are likely to struggle above average. Warmer days are most likely to be further inland towards the south and west.

Confidence is low for this period as is typical of spring. The UK will likely see spells of fine, dry weather at times with fair-weather cloud and plenty of sunny spells, as well as an increased likelihood of more unsettled periods when compared to April. All areas expected to see showers or longer spells of rain at times. Temperatures are likely to be close to the average for the time of year, with the possibility of some warmer spells.

Canada

Today

Snow Showers Partly Cloudy with Light Snow Showers with a high near 36°F [2°C]. North northwest wind to around 13 mph [21 kph], with wind gusts to near 28 mph [46 kph]. The dewpoint will be near 14°F [-10°C] with a humidity of 59% and a barometric pressure around 30.20 in [1023 mb]. The UVI forecast is 5. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight

Clear with a low around 15°F [-9°C]. North northwest wind to around 6 mph [10 kph], with wind gusts to near 11 mph [17 kph]. The dewpoint will be near 6°F [-14°C] with a humidity of 30% and a barometric pressure around 30.17 in [1022 mb]. Chance of precipitation is 0%.

Friday

Mostly Sunny with a high near 40°F [5°C]. Southwest wind to around 4 mph [6 kph], with wind gusts to near 14 mph [22 kph]. The dewpoint will be near 5°F [-9°C] with a humidity of 66% and a barometric pressure around 30.09 in [1019 mb]. The UVI forecast is 4. Chance of precipitation is 0%.

Friday Night

Partly Cloudy with a low around 27°F [-3°C]. North wind to around 5 mph [8 kph], with wind gusts to near 7 mph [11 kph]. The dewpoint will be near 10°F [-11°C] with a humidity of 36% and a barometric pressure around 30.10 in [1019 mb]. Chance of precipitation is 0%.

The USA

Following the most recent rounds of tornadoes, damaging winds and large hail that occurred nearly two weeks ago, the South has had little in the way of severe weather.

The recent stretch of quiet weather will continue into Thursday. By Friday, an increase in humidity levels will occur in the southern Plains as moisture is drawn northward from the Gulf of Mexico. Other factors will also contribute to the risk for thunderstorms as well.

"Warm, moist air will flow from the Gulf of Mexico and collide with a warm front pushing through the southern Plains," said AccuWeather Meteorologist Mary Gilbert. "This collision can have explosive results over portions of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi," she added.

As storms initially develop, individual thunderstorms will have the potential to rotate, and there will be a risk for isolated tornadoes. The threats will evolve as storms are likely to eventually become a more organized line.

"Damaging wind gusts, hail and downpours will be the most prevalent threats with any strong storm," Gilbert said.

The threat will continue to progress eastward Friday night, allowing severe thunderstorms to target other areas such as Houston and Jackson, Mississippi.

Although the thunderstorms are expected to be fast-moving, rain may fall quickly and heavily enough to cause localized flooding. In the heaviest downpours, the AccuWeather Local StormMax™ of 8 inches could be achieved Friday into Saturday.

Those planning to travel Friday night must be extra cautious, as the depth of water is hard to gauge at night. Motorists should never cross a flooded roadway, day or night. When encountering a flooded area, turn around and find an alternate route.

Thunderstorms will continue to move eastward Saturday. However, the areal coverage of severe weather is expected to be smaller than Friday and confined primarily to the Gulf Coast states. Areas from eastern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, southern Alabama, southern Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and into the Carolinas will be at risk for torrential downpours and gusty winds Saturday. This would include cities such as New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Montgomery and Mobile, Alabama; Columbus, Georgia; and Columbia, South Carolina.

The storms are not likely to reach coastal areas of Georgia and the Carolinas until Saturday evening.

The cold front will largely be offshore by Sunday, but a few thunderstorms may become locally gusty in central and southern Florida.

3. *What phrases are used to describe good / rainy/ cold weather? Make up a list.*

4. *Translate the dialogues into English.*

1.
 - Какую погоду обещают синоптики?
 - + 30 градусов, будет очень жарко.
 - Надо обязательно одеть шляпу.
 - И зонтик возьми, к вечеру может быть дождь.
 - Спасибо.
2.
 - Славная сегодня погодка, не правда ли? Здравствуйте.
 - Приветствую. Погода и в правду хороша. В этом году май особенно чудесен.
 - Говорят, будет очень жаркое лето.
 - Несомненно, при такой весне лето будет тёплым.
3.
 - Как вам погода?
 - Ночью было очень холодно, пришлось включать обогреватель.
 - Зато днём уже намного теплее чем зимой.
 - Вы правы.

5. *What is the weather forecast for today?*

What was the weather like a week ago?

6. *Make up dialogues.*

1. You are going for a picnic with your friend tomorrow. Discuss the weather.
2. You call your friend who lives in another city. Discuss the weather.
3. You plan to help your parents in the garden on Saturday. Discuss the weather.
4. You are going fishing with your father this evening. Discuss the weather.

5. You are going skiing this weekend with your friend. Discuss the weather.
6. You are going camping with your friends in July. Discuss the weather.
7. You are going to organize a football match. Choose a date and time. Discuss the weather.
8. You are going to enjoy a cruise on the river tomorrow afternoon. Invite your friend. Discuss the weather.

ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

Preparing for your exam, make sure you know the topical vocabulary and you can speak on the following topics:

Seasons and weather in Great Britain,

Seasons and weather in Russia

Getting ready for the exam, be sure you can make up a dialogue in which you describe the weather and plan your activities according to the weather forecast.

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SEASONS AND WEATHER

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