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УЧЕБНОЕ ПОСОБИЕ
по темам
«SEASONS AND WEATHER» и «TIME»

*для студентов I курса филологического факультета специальности
«АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК И ЛИТЕРАТУРА»*

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Пособие состоит из разделов, включающих тематические тексты, словарь, подлежащий активному усвоению, и послетекстовые упражнения, способствующие развитию навыков монологической и диалогической речи.

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PART I. CLIMATE. SEASONS AND WEATHER

1. Topical 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 snow-drops.

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.

2. (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 [draut] (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.

2. Text A

Weather

The naughtiest thing in the world is the weather. It's like a capricious woman who always does the opposite to what you ask her.

When you want to go for a picnic in the open air you ask the skies to remain clear and the day to be fine. Nervously you switch on the radio and listen to the weather forecast. You tremble with joy to hear that it'll stay warm and dry with bright sunshine and moderate breeze. Your imagination draws a hot summer afternoon and yourself saying: "Nice weather we are having today!" You take a lot of food and no warm clothes, go to the countryside but ... do not get anything sunny. You get it cloudy and cool with intermittent drizzle which ends with a thunderly shower. The sky is so heavily cast with clouds, the downpours follow one another with such frequency, the rumbling of thunder and flashes of lightning are so frightening that you've got no illusions left. You throw away the food and go back hungry and angry. And when you are already approaching your home soaked to the skin it suddenly brightens up. Oh, Goodness!

Each summer every student survives through the best of his or her life - an examination session. Then many students plead: "Please, weather, stay cloudy, chilly and even cold with brisk northerly wind and rain torrents leaving pools and puddles everywhere, especially on the playground. And I'll be a good student." The radio promises: "Patchy light drizzle with showery outbreaks of rain." But the "patch" is never in the right place. Instead the skies send heat and excellent weather for a sun tan. Everyone knows that sun tan never helps at exams.

And it is always like this. When you go skiing and want to have frosty weather with a lot of snow, it starts thawing and your skis sink in the slush. Instead of a snowfall and hoarfrost on the trees you get excellent sleet. The weather does not feel any pangs of remorse.

When you go in the car to the country, enjoying nice weather and a beautiful view of a rainbow in the blue sky, you pay no attention to some haze on the horizon. Some time later a thin mist in the distance turns into a thick fog and you spend a lovely two hours instead of one at the steering wheel.

When you plant some much-cared-for flowers in the garden, either a ground frost or a hail storm kills them. Digging muddy flowerbeds one feels exasperated: "What beastly weather we've had this week! And it keeps nasty! Wretched!"

To tell the truth, sometimes the weather is ashamed and turns for the better. But not always. More often it sticks to its own pattern and after a short warm spell turns bad again. Why is it always like this? Maybe, because the weather likes surprises and wants to bring in adventures to our life, breaking the boring routine with marvellous happenings?

In England, where the weather seems to change every minute, you might imagine that people's moods would reflect these changes. But the English are regarded as an undemonstrative and rather placid race.

For myself, I know I am affected by the weather. There is a big difference in my energy levels during the different seasons. In winter I have nothing like as much enthusiasm for doing things as I have in the summer. Even on sunny days I find it difficult to make myself do anything more than I have to. While not getting particularly depressed during winter, I do feel rather like a hibernating animal. The one exception to this is when I go to the mountains - in spite of the freezing temperatures, I feel exhilarated by the fresh, clear air and once more ready for anything. Unlike most people, I love the wind. I have never experienced a tornado or a real hurricane, just a strong gale, and I find it thrilling. The wind gives me both physical and mental energy. It sweeps away all my stale thoughts and gives me the feeling of being able to start again. It makes me feel much more creative, but at the same time slightly mad.

In contrast to this happy feeling produced by the wind, my lowest time is on days of grey skies and constant rain. Then, it doesn't take much to make me short-tempered with people; also, the ability to make sensible decisions seems to go out of the window at this time.

My wet weather mood contrasts greatly with my sunny day behaviour. I notice two changes in me - one which is more dramatic than the other. If we have a period of dull weather followed by a bright sunny day, I feel cheerful, happy and full of joy, as if a burden has been lifted from me. If this one sunny day is followed by more and more sunny days, my mood settles down into one of contentment, openness and a feeling of physical well-being. My face relaxes, as does my body, and I feel able to cope with everybody and everything.

There is no doubt that the weather plays an important part in my behaviour. Sometimes, however, it is difficult to distinguish between a weather-related mood and just a bad temper. It's very easy to blame the weather!

2.1. Notes on Text A

Intermittent (adj.) happening, then stopping, then happening again, with pauses in between; not continuous.

Thundery (adj.) (of the weather) giving signs that thunder is likely.

Rumble (v) to make or move with a deep rolling sound.

Patchy (adj.) made up of or appearing in patches.

Remorse (n) great sorrow and a feeling of guilt for having done wrong.

Exasperate (v) (usu. pass.) to annoy or make extremely angry, esp. by testing the patience of.

placid (adj.) calm, peaceful.

Hibernate (v) (of some animals) to be or go into a state like a long sleep during the winter.

Contentment (n) quiet happiness; satisfaction.

2.2. Additional Vocabulary

Cold weather

Chilly - cold, but not very; frost - thin white coat of ice on everything; sleet - rain and snow mixed; slush - dirty, brownish, half-snow, half-water; to settle - to stay as a white covering; a blizzard - snow blown by high winds; a snowdrift - deep banks of snow against walls, etc.; the ground starts to thaw - change from hard, frozen state to normal; ... the ice melts - change from solid to liquid under heat.

In Scandinavia, the chilly days of autumn soon change to the cold days of winter. The first frosts arrive and the roads become icy. Rain becomes sleet and then snow, at first turning to slush in the streets, but soon settling, with severe blizzards and snowdrifts in the far North. Freezing weather often continues in the far North until May or June, when the ground starts to thaw and the ice melts again.

Warm / hot weather

Close - warm and uncomfortable; stifling - hot, uncomfortable, you can hardly breathe (душный, удушающий); humid - hot and damp, makes you sweat a lot; scorching - very hot, often used in positive contexts (знойный, палящий); boiling - very hot, often used in negative contexts (палящий, обжигающий); mild - warm at a time when it is normally cold. *Note also:* We had a heatwave last month (very hot, dry period).

Wet weather

This wet weather scale gets stronger from left to right.

DAMP → DRIZZLE → POUR DOWN / DOWNPOUR → TORRENTIAL RAIN → FLOOD

Autumn in London is usually chilly and damp with rain and drizzle.

It was absolutely pouring down - or - there was a real downpour.

In the tropics there is usually torrential rain most days, and the roads often get flooded - or - there are floods on the roads.

This rain won't last long; it is only a shower (short duration).

The storm damaged several houses (high winds and rain together).

We got very wet in the thunderstorm (thunder and heavy rain).

Hailstones were battering the roof of our car (small balls of ice falling from the sky). *Note also* hail (uncountable).

The sky's a bit overcast; I think it is going to rain (very cloudy).

We had a drought last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks.

Mist and fog

Nouns and adjectives: haze (легкий туман, дымка) / hazy (туманный, подернутый дымкой, неясный) - light mist, usually caused by heat; mist / misty - light fog, often on the sea, or caused by drizzle; fog / foggy - quite thick, associated with cold weather; smog (= smoke + fog) - mixture of fog and pollution.

Wind

There was a gentle breeze on the beach, just enough to cool us.

There is a good wind today; fancy going sailing?

It is a very blustery day; the umbrella will just blow away (to bluster - бушевать о буре).

There has been a gale (= a strong wind) warning; it would be crazy to go sailing.

People boarded up their windows when they heard there was a hurricane on the way.

2.3. Vocabulary Practice

Exercise 1. Consult your dictionary and give all possible derivatives from the following words.

sun	mist	air
fog	wind	light
rain	dark	warm

Exercise 2. Explain the difference between the synonyms or analogous words.

to chill - to freeze	breeze - wind
veil - haze - mist - fog	to smoke - to steam up

cool - chilly - cold - icy - bitter

Exercise 3. Match the nouns with adjectives to make common phrases.

Pattern: heavy rain, heavy snow, etc.

Nouns: rain	Adjectives: heavy	bitter
wind	biting	chilly
fog	strong	cloudy
snow	fresh	brisk
sky	thick	drizzling
air	thin	hot
	cold	piercing
	bright	southerly
	clear	swirling
	chilly	misty
	clean	drenching

Exercise 4. Find the word with the strongest meaning in each of these groups of words.

- 1) unpleasant - bad - beastly - wretched - nasty;
- 2) breeze - squall - gust - storm - hurricane;
- 3) cold - chilly - cool - frosty - freezing;
- 4) downpour - rain - shower - drizzle;
- 5) stuffy - warm - close - sultry - hot;
- 6) waterfall - flood - stream - whirlpool;
- 7) splendid - glorious - fine - pleasant - nice;
- 8) haze - dimness - fog - mist - smog.

Exercise 5. Match each word with a word below.

- 1) thunder 2) torrential 3) down 4) heat 5) hail 6) snow 7) gale
stones drift storm warning rain wave pour

Exercise 6. Fill the gaps with suitable words from the additional vocabulary.

My first experience of real winter weather was when I went to Northern Canada. I was used to the sort of snow that falls in London, which quickly turns into brown ... with all the people walking on it. In fact, most of the time I was in London, it didn't really snow properly, it was mostly Apart from that, British winters mean a bit of white ... on my garden and occasionally having to drive very carefully on icy roads early in the morning. I had never experienced the ... and ... that can paralyze the whole city in less than an hour and close

roads completely. However, when the earth finally ... and all the snow ... away in spring, everything comes to life again and looks more beautiful than ever.

Exercise 7. What kind of weather do you think caused the following to happen? Write a sentence which could go before each of these.

- 1) We had to sit in the shade every afternoon.
- 2) The sweat was pouring out of us.
- 3) I can hardly breathe; I wish it would rain to cool us down.
- 4) Cars were skidding out of control. (Машины заносило).
- 5) Even the postman had to use the boat to get around.
- 6) They had to close the airport; the snow was a metre (Am. meter) deep.
- 7) We were able to sit in the garden in the middle of winter.
- 8) The earth became rock-hard and a lot of plants died.
- 9) It blew the newspaper clean out of my hands.
- 10) A row of big trees had been uprooted like matchsticks.
- 11) I could hardly see my hand in front of my face.

Exercise 8. What types of weather are bad or good for doing these things?

Example: skiing bad: mild weather which makes the snow melt;
good: cold, clear days.

- 1) Planting flowers in a garden.
- 2) Having an evening barbecue.
- 3) Going out in a small sailing boat.
- 4) A day of sightseeing in a big city.
- 5) Camping out in a tent.
- 6) Looking at ships through binoculars.

Exercise 9. Choose the right word from a couple of similar-looking ones. Change word forms if necessary.

- 1) (slush, sleet)
 - a) The ... under my feet was awful. I had an impression that I was walking through a muddy sea.
 - b) The rain changed into Wet snowflakes were falling on the ground and melted there.
- 2) (ice drift, snowdrift)
 - a) The path was hedged by two long They were like two mountain ranges.
 - b) The ... started at night. In the morning the children ran to the river to look at the huge blocks of ice drifting across the water.
- 3) (icing, icicle)
 - a) There was heavy ... on the road and all cars were moving very slowly.
 - b) After a thaw there appeared ... on the edge of the roof; they looked like sparkling needles.

- 4) (frost, hoarfrost)
- Three branches were covered with... and the forest looked enchanting and somewhat mysterious.
 - The ... was biting the nose and the cheeks. It was impossible to stay long in the street.
- 5) (draught, drought)
- Severe ... killed the crops. Not a drop of rain fell on the ground for a month.
 - When the door opened, the ... blew off the papers down on the floor.
- 6) (to freeze, to be freezing)
- In winter all rivers and lakes in these parts always
 - The temperature was quite low and I felt that I was
- 7) (blizzard, drizzle)
- Boring ... spoiled the day. It was too wet and dull.
 - The ... was blinding us. Snowflakes were swirling in the air.
- 8) (light, lightning)
- There is not enough ... in the room. The table should be moved closer to the window.
 - The ... split the sky into two parts. A deafening thunder crack followed.

Exercise 10. Choose the correct alternative to fill each gap in the following sentences.

- It's absolutely ... outside, so wear your gloves.
A. cold B. chilly C. freezing
- We had to postpone the match because it started to really
A. drizzle B. pour C. shower
- Tomorrow will be mild with the possibility of a few ... in the evening.
A. rain B. showers C. sleet
- It's only a bit of light You won't need an umbrella.
A. sleet B. drizzle C. hail
- Close to the Equator the weather is hot and ... and there are often electrical storms.
A. damp B. mild C. humid
- The old house was very cold and ... in winter.
A. humid B. damp C. freezing
- Open the window. There's a lovely cool ... outside.
A. breeze B. gale C. gust
- There was such a ... that my umbrella blew inside out.
A. rain B. breeze C. gale
- The ground was completely white. I thought it was snow at first, but it was just a heavy
A. hail B. frost C. sleet

Exercise 11. Read the following conversation, paying particular attention to the underlined idioms. As you are reading, try to work out what the expressions mean.

A: You seem to be making very heavy weather of this exercise. It's not at all complicated.

B: It's OK for you to talk. You're a genius at maths, you get through these exams like greased lightning.

A: The secret is, don't listen to what the professor says - that's a lot of hot air. Just think logically for yourself.

B: To tell the truth, I'm a bit under the weather today, so my brain is less active than usual.

A: I'll help you. Look, all you do is multiply by 2,3 and then divide by 3,5, ...

B: Oh, I see. That's the first time I've understood what to do. Gosh, you're like a breath of fresh air. Thanks a lot. I owe you a favour.

A: Save it for a rainy day.

Exercise 12. Find in the right hand column English equivalents to the Russian sentences in the left hand column.

A.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Довольно тепло (прохладно, холодно), правда? | 1. A wonderful morning (evening), isn't it?
It's wonderful out. |
| 2. Стоит прекрасная (жаркая, чудесная) погода. | 2. Rather warm (cool, cold), isn't it? |
| 3. Какой прекрасный (хороший, очаровательный, восхитительный) день (ночь)! | 3. I think it will continue (keep) fine. The weather is improving, I should say. It will clear up by and by. It is clearing up. |
| 4. Я думаю, что хорошая погода постоит. Я бы сказал, что погода улучшается. Постепенно прояснится. Проясняется. | 4. What a clear (starlit, cloudless) night!
Not a cloud in the sky! |
| 5. Какая ясная (звездная, безоблачная) ночь! На небе ни облачка! | 5. I expect we'll have a fine day. The sun is coming out. |
| 6. Чудесное утро (вечер), не правда ли? На улице чудесно! | 6. We are having a spell of fine (hot, wonderful) weather. |

7. Я думаю, что день будет чудесный. Солнце выходит.

7. What a fine (nice, most lovely, glorious) day (night)!

B.

1. Небо все в облаках.
На небе низко висят облака.

1. It's beginning to drizzle. There's a fine drizzling rain. The rain is still falling. It's coming down hard (in torrents, in buckets). It's lovely weather for ducks.

2. Дождь (снег) прекратился (перестал), но погода такая неопределенная (не установлена), переменчивая.

2. It seems a dull (wet, damp, gloomy) day. What a rainy (cloudy, foggy, windy, stormy) day. It's hazy (misty).

3. Начинает моросить. Идет мелкий моросящий дождь. Льет как из ведра.
Дождливая погода (шутл).

3. I expect we'll have rain (a shower, a thunderstorm). It will turn out a wet day. It won't keep fine. We are in for bad (cold, rainy, freezing) weather.

4. Кажется, день сегодня пасмурный (серый, мрачный). Какой дождливый (облачный, ветренный, штормовой) день. Туманный день (туманно).

4. It's a dull morning (day), isn't it? Rather nasty out! Beastly weather! What wretched (frightful, terrible, awful) weather!

5. Я думаю, что будет дождь (ливень, гроза). День окажется серым. Хорошая погода не продержится. Плохой (холодной, дождливой, морозной) погоды не миновать.

5. The rain is still falling. It's pouring (lightning, thundering, hailing). There goes a flash of lightning! Do you hear the crashing of the thunder? What a tremendous clap of thunder! It's been raining off and on for a week now.

6. Мрачное утро (день), правда? На улице довольно пасмурно. Отвратительная погода. Какая ужасная (жуткая, неприятная) погода!

6. The sky is overcast. The clouds are hanging low in the sky.

7. Дождь все еще идет. Идет сильный дождь (сверкает молния, гремит гром, идет град). Сверкает вспышка молнии. Слышишь раскат грома? Какой сильный удар грома! Всю неделю то и дело идет дождь. Дождь идет уже целую неделю.

7. Don't get caught in the rain (in a shower). You'll get wet through and through. I'm drenched (soaked, wet to the skin). My clothes are soaking wet.

8. Не попади под дождь (ливень). Ты промокнешь насквозь. Я вымок (промок насквозь, до костей). Моя одежда насквозь мокрая.
8. It has stopped (ceased, left off) raining (snowing). But the weather is so uncertain (unsettled, changeable).

C.

1. Идет жаркая волна. Установилась жаркая погода.
1. There's hardly a breath of air. (There's not a breath of air.) Not a leaf is stirring. No wonder, with such a blazing (scorching) sun.
2. Жаркий (душный, пыльный, знойный, жаркий и влажный) день. Воздух влажный.
2. A heat wave is coming on. Hot weather has set in.
3. Дышать нечем (ни дуновения ветерка). Ни листочек не колышется. Не удивительно, такое палящее (обжигающее) солнце.
3. It's a hot (close, stifling, dusty, sultry, sticky) day. The air is humid.
4. 30° тепла в тени. Температура повышается.
4. The heat is unbearable (oppressive).

D.

1. Река замерзла. Мороз сковал реку. Установилась холодная погода. Термометр показывает 0°. Я дрожу от холода. У меня зубы стучат от холода.
1. Snow is falling. What soft, fluffy, large snowflakes! They are coming down thick. There is a thick (heavy) snowfall.
2. Становится прохладно. Какой холодный (морозный) день! Ужасно холодно на улице.
2. The river is frozen over. The frost has locked the river. Cold weather has set in. The thermometer is at zero. I'm shivering. My teeth are clattering with the cold.
3. Идет снег. Какие мягкие, большие и пушистые снежинки! Они падают очень густо. Сильный снегопад.
3. It is getting chilly. What a cold (frosty) day! It's extremely (bitterly, beastly) cold out.
4. Была тяжелая (суровая, мягкая) зима. Но в воздухе уже весна.
4. A strong wind has risen. The wind is blowing the snow high in the air. It looks as if we're going to have a snowstorm.
5. Морозит. Стоит суровый (сильный) мороз. Неожиданно установился период холодной погоды.
5. There's been a thaw (it's thawing). The snow and ice are melting. It's slushy (muddy, dirty)

Я промерз до костей.

6. Поднялся сильный ветер. Ветер метет снег. Похоже, что будет буря.
7. Стоит оттепель. Тают снег и лед. На улице слякоть (грязно). Иди осторожно, вокруг слякоть и грязные лужи. Местами еще очень скользко.

out. Look out for the slush and mud puddles. It is still very slippery in places.

6. It's been a hard (severe, mild) winter. But spring is in the air.
7. It's freezing. We're having a severe (hard) frost. We're having a sudden spell of cold weather. I am chilled to the bone.

Exercise 13. Translate into English using topical vocabulary. Do it in writing.

1. Осенью погода обычно сырая. Часто идут дожди. Дуют сильные ветры. Дни стоят очень пасмурные. Небо затянуто облаками. Солнца мало. По ночам иногда бывает сильный туман.
2. Какой сырой, ветренный и мрачный день! Время от времени начинает моросить. В такую погоду совсем не хочется выходить на улицу.
3. Началась оттепель. Снег тает. На улицах лужи. На небе ни облачка. В воздухе чувствуется весна.
4. Какая неустойчивая погода! Дождь то шел, то прекращался в течение недели. Со стороны моря идет густой туман. Вчера мы попали под ливень, промокли насквозь и вынуждены были вернуться домой.
5. Зима в нашем городе наступает рано. Иногда уже в конце ноября все покрывается снегом. Замерзают реки и озера. Часто дуют холодные сильные ветры. Иногда бывает пурга. Дни становятся все короче и короче, а ночи длиннее. Временами выходит солнце, но оно совсем не греет.
6. Каждый день облачное небо, ливни, грозы. Этот период ненастной погоды продолжается уже слишком долго.
7. На улице +30⁰ в тени и температура продолжает повышаться. Жара невыносимая. Просто нечем дышать! Так душно, что невозможно находиться в помещении.
8. Установилась холодная погода. Со вчерашнего дня морозит. Сегодня на улице ужасно холодно.
9. В течение дня погода в Англии меняется несколько раз, гораздо чаще, чем на континенте.
10. Туман очень густой. Все машины медленно ползут с зажженными фарами.

2.4. Grammar Practice

Exercise 1. Fill in the blanks with articles before names of seasons if necessary.

Comment on your choice of articles.

1. They looked in awe at this proof of returning life, moved too deeply for words that it should have just come this morning to remind them when ... winter lay heaviest on them that ... spring would come again and with ... spring freedom and reunion.
2. I should remember the rose-garden in ... summer, and the birds that sang at dawn.
3. The weather was wet and cold for quite a week, as it often can be in the west country in ... early spring.
4. "During ... summer I always feel uneasy for..."; he swallowed. "For it reminds me of what happened three years ago."
5. I am transported from this indifferent island to the realities of ...English spring.
6. There was a good deal of story-telling and comparing notes on ... past summer and all its doings.
7. The sun had brought the old men out from wherever they spent ... winter.
8. In ... summer of his sophomore year, when he got the job after hours and on Saturdays at Caldewood's Department Store he was quite happy.
9. The west country must be delightful in ... spring.
10. In ... spring of the year 1881 he was visiting his old schoolfellow and client G. Liversledge.
11. I'm tired to death of Europe and we can come back in ... early spring.
12. ... winter passed into ... spring and ... gardens on the Riviera were ablaze with colour. ... spring passed into ... summer.
13. He shivered. He always hated ... winter.
14. Christmas of 1862 had been a happy one for Atlanta, for the whole south. Everyone knew that when the campaign reopened in ... spring, the Yankees would be crushed for good and all.
15. And you frightened me with it, that winter when you and I were here as girls, ... winter I was engaged to Delphin.
16. Even the mists of ... autumn and the smell of the flood tide - these are the memories of Manderley that will not be denied.
17. In the evening the bars on the Croisette were thronged by a restless, chattering crowd as many-coloured as the flowers of ... spring.
18. It was ... early spring when she chanced to meet Walter Fane.
19. New York is beautiful at ground level, but on ... fine day in ... early winter from the air, it is one of the loveliest sights a man can hope to see.
20. You know our blood gets so thick during ... winter.
21. That was ... terrible summer with the sound of milk-cans rattling in the street, rubber shod feet padding on pavements.

22. Whether in ... winter or in ... summer, ...spring or ... autumn it's always got its fun and its excitements.
23. I raked up visions of ... Wyoming spring, warm, bright.
24. ... winter settled down over the mountains and the long trip from the city to her ceased to be an adventure for Bart, and became a hardship.
25. There was a small lake nearby with two hotels that were open for ... summer, and holiday cottages owned by people who came from Cleveland.

Exercise 2. Translate the following sentences from Russian into English paying special attention to the use of articles with the names of the seasons.

1. В течение лета я часто встречал своего школьного друга.
2. "Была поздняя осень, когда она написала мне," - сказал он.
3. Они должны были пожениться в самом начале весны.
4. Прошлым летом Сара переехала за город.
5. Лето, которое Сюзанна провела с Ларри, было самым счастливым временем в ее жизни.
6. Я думаю, ты знаешь, что Ларри пробыл в Санари всю зиму.
7. Видишь ли, осенью я собираюсь поступить на работу в дядину фирму.
8. Была ранняя весна когда они прибыли в Одессу.
9. Какое унылое лето ждет нас впереди!
10. В тот год зима была холодная.
11. В течение зимы средняя температура была минус 10°.
12. За пределами госпиталя жители Берлингтона страдали от ужасно жаркого лета.
13. Но действительно, кажется довольно абсурдным, что я не увижу свою собственную работу, тем более, что осенью я собираюсь выставить ее на выставке в Париже.
14. Зима была уже на носу, а у нее не было теплой одежды, а теперь и работы.
15. Летом 1985 года она победила на соревнованиях.

Exercise 3. Put one of the following prepositions in each space in the passages below:

/ out / for / with / from / of / under / on / in /

A.

- It's too close here. Let's go a walk.
- Very well, but let's not walk ... the sun. The heat and the strong light are very unpleasant.
- We can sit down ... that large tree. Its dense foliage will protect us ... the sun. You see how cool it is ... the shade. Last week it rained a great deal, so that the plants have grown very fast. The ground is covered ... the grass. Let us sit

down ... it. The sight ... the beautiful green meadows is very pleasant ... the eyes.

- What do you call those white flowers ... yellow centres ... England?

- They are daisies, and the others that are all yellow are called buttercups. Pick some ... them and make a bouquet; we'll take it home.

B.

- So, Trevor, you are ... sunny California, aren't you? Tell me, is it really hot ... California all the year round?

- No, it can get cold, but never freezing cold. It never snows ... Los Angeles ... example. But it's chilly ... winter, especially ... the evenings.

- And what's the summer like?

- It can be boiling hot ... the summer. Too warm ... me. ... Los Angeles it gets smoggy too. Your eyes hurt and you can't see the sun ... the sky.

- How awful.

2.5. Oral Practice

Exercise 1. Now read Text A carefully and answer the following questions.

- 1) Do you agree that the weather is like a capricious woman? Prove your point.
- 2) What weather do you like best of all and why?
- 3) Do you listen to the weather forecasts? Do you trust them? Have you heard the weather forecast today? Was it right?
- 4) Say what mood in you prevails when
 - a) it is a cold winter day;
 - b) it is a hot summer night;
 - c) it is a warm spring evening;
 - d) it is a cool autumn morning.

Exercise 2. a) Look at the following patterns, expressing one's delight with the weather or dislike of it.

For good weather

It's absolutely marvellous!

Isn't it gorgeous!

It's so nice and hot!

Personally I think it's so nice when it's hot, isn't it?

I adore it. Don't you?

For bad weather

It certainly is horrible!

Nasty day, isn't it?

Isn't it dreadful?

I hate rain.

I don't like it at all. Do you?

b) Work in pairs. Use these patterns to respond to the following.

A.

Nice day, isn't it?
What a glorious morning!
Fancy such a day in December!
It's so nice when it's warm.
What a beautiful winter evening!
This breeze is so refreshing!
It's so surprisingly warm for this time of the year!
What a fine day we are having!
I love the sun. Isn't it wonderful?

B.

Dull morning, isn't it?
Nasty day, isn't it?
I hate snow.
What a horrible day!
The heat is unbearable.
I can't stand this wind.
The weather is turning bad.
Rain all day long. Isn't it dreadful?
It's pouring again. Isn't it wretched?

Exercise 3. Comment upon the following proverbs and illustrate their meaning.

- 1) If there were no clouds, we should not enjoy the sun.
- 2) Small rain lays great dust.
- 3) As welcome as a storm.
- 4) After rain comes fair weather (sunshine).
- 5) It never rains but it pours.
- 6) April weather.
- 7) For a rainy day (to save, to put by, to lay up).
- 8) Every cloud has a silver lining.

Exercise 4. Study the following texts and say what in your opinion the advantages and disadvantages of each season are. (The phrases given below will help you to express an opinion of your own or ask for somebody else's opinion).

Asking for an opinion

Well? What do you think?
Do / Don't you agree?
What's your view (then)?
How do you see it (then)?
Let's have your opinion.

Expressing your own opinion

I think that ...
In my opinion ...
In my view ...
I feel that ...
What's your opinion of ... ?

A - In my opinion the most pleasant season is (the) spring. In May the weather is finest and all nature is loveliest. The trees put forth little buds and new leaves; the meadows grow green again; the flowers begin to bloom. The nightingale, swallow, cuckoo and other birds come back from Italy or Africa and build their nests, all the while singing their merry songs. Meanwhile the new crop is shooting up, and if there are no sharp frosts during the night, nature looks full of promise, and the corn-fields are made bright by blue cornflowers and red poppies.

Spring flowers! The lilacs unfold their pale hearts. There shines the wild daffodil - soft, slim, yellow; there is the starry narcissus, the hyacinth almost lost in the herbs; among them stand tulips - the red bubbles of dark wine; the yellow, more cup-like; the large party-coloured gold and red, noble and sombre.

B - I, for one, like summer, in fact, I prefer it to any other season. By the end of June, when the days become considerably warmer, summer has come. If the heat gets too oppressive, we can go and bathe in running water. And many people enjoy a game of tennis in summer. In the summer the hot sun ripens the corn and fruit, and the farmer gets ready for the harvest. There are plenty of strawberries, cherries, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, apricots, peaches, plums and blackberries, which are ripe and afford a treat for the old and the young. And what pleasure can compare with that of watching the glorious sunrise and sunset? Clouds? Rain? Well, well, it isn't always cloudy, and there is no such thing as perpetual rain.

C - Strange as it might seem, I like (the) autumn. There are some drawbacks, I admit, - the shorter days and longer nights, for instance. The weather also leaves much to be desired. But is there anything more beautiful than an Indian summer - when we have one! We miss the songs of the birds, you say. Well, I can and do enjoy the sparrow, bluebird, crossbill and the few others that remain with us. Oh, I know what you want to say. The November fogs, and mist, and sleet are not pleasant things. But what should we do without apples, pears, walnuts, grapes, which get ripe in September and October and may be picked. I, for one, could not get along without fruits or nuts, and for the sake of those I'm willing to put up with some discomforts.

D - When autumn is over and winter sets in, I don't mind it at all. I know it is the season of snowstorms, and of ice, of frozen rivers and ponds, and of slippery streets. But think of the skating on the ice, or skiing in the country, and the sledging. In snowy weather, tobogganing is my favourite pastime. Then think of the joy of the children. At the first heavy snowfall, they are out making snowmen, building snowhuts, and pelting one another with snowballs. Of course, if the winter is severe, one must take care not to get frost-bitten. To me, winter has

its own peculiar interest and beauty, and there is no reason to feel bored to death when there are interesting books, theatres and concerts, and the cinema.

Exercise 5. Discuss with a partner the weather you are having at present. Choose questions and answers from the models given below.

Questions:

What do you think of the weather?

What's the weather outside?

I wonder what the weather is going to be like.

Will the weather keep?

Do you think it will clear up?

Do you think it is going to turn out fine?

What is the weather forecast for today?

Answers:

We are in for a spell of good weather.

It looks like rain.

The weather is turning bad.

It'll change for the better.

The weather is fine / nice / lovely / beautiful.

The weather is nasty / wretched / awful / dull.

The day is rainy / windy / bright / sunny.

The weather is favourable.

The sky is overcast / cloudy / clear.

It's snowing / pouring / raining / drizzling.

The wind is rising.

It has been raining on and off for ...

The fog is lifting.

Exercise 6. Read Notes 1 and 2 and make up dialogues according to the suggested patterns.

Note 1. Foreigners are often amused that the English spend so much time discussing the weather. The reason for this is not simply that their weather is interesting and variable, but that the English are reluctant to converse about personal matters with people who are not friends. Mentioning the weather can be a useful and inoffensive way of starting a conversation with a stranger at a bus-stop or in a train.

Note 2. Each situation is expressed by four dialogues arranged in parallel, so that any of A's first utterances may be followed by any of B's first utterances and so on. This means that, with a 4x4 arrangement, we have 256 different variations of the same situation - do you feel like trying ?

(I)

- A. Fairly mild for the time of the year.
- B. Yes. Quite different from the forecast.
- A. They say we're in for snow.
- B. Let's hope it keeps fine for the weekend.

(II)

- It seems to be clearing up.
- It makes a change, doesn't it?
- Apparently it's going to turn cold.
- Still, another month should see us through the worst of it.

(III)

- A. Nice and bright this morning.
- B. Yes. Much better than yesterday.
- A. The wind'll probably get up later.
- B. As long as it doesn't rain.

(IV)

- It's good to see the sun again.
- A big improvement on what we've been having.
- It's supposed to cloud over this afternoon.
- I didn't think it would last.

Exercise 7. Recall the weather on the day of a) your entrance examination in English; b) your last exam at school; c) your last birthday. As you may be not quite sure of the weather on that day, use the models below to express hesitation.

As far as I remember ...
If my memory serves me right ...
I seem to remember ...
I am not sure about it but ...
I can't be absolutely sure about it, of course, ...
If I remember correctly ...

Exercise 9. Comment upon the quotations.

"There is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." - John Ruskin.

"When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather."

- Samuel Johnson.

"Life, believe, is not a dream,

So dark as sages say;

Oft a little morning rain.

Foretells a pleasant day!" - Charlotte Bronte.

Exercise 10. You are working on a film and have to describe the weather scene for the following clips - use your vivid imagination!

a) Two cowboys are riding across the desert.

- b) It is a dark night in the middle of nowhere where strange things have been happening.
- c) The railway station, and a parting between two lovers.
- d) Guests in the Large Hotel on the coast are stranded because of a hurricane which has hit the area.

Exercise 11 Work in groups and discuss with your classmates the topics you see below. Let one of you sum up what all of you have said.

- a) Would you agree that there is no reason to feel bored in autumn ?
- b) Account for the fact that most people are happy when winter is over and warm weather sets in.
- c) Are you sure that one should not put off the outing if one hears the forecast promising unsteady weather?
- d) Some people are convinced that late autumn has many advantages as compared to the other seasons. What's your opinion?
- e) Prove that winter is the best time for a holiday.

2.6. Writing Practice

Exercise 1. Think for five minutes and write what you like to do in good and bad weather. Compare your activities with those written by other students. Choose the most original ideas.

Exercise 2. Study the weather in your region for a whole week. Write down your observations. Use the following models.

A.

Monday: occasional drizzle, bright spells, cold.
 Tuesday: Scattered showers, hail and snow over high ground.
 Wednesday: Snow showers heavy in the North, sunny periods, cold.
 Thursday: Cloudy with showers of sleet or snow, rather cold.
 Friday: Some rain in the South at first, early fog, frost patches.
 Saturday: Mainly dry, some bright intervals, milder.
 Sunday: Rain at times, temperatures near normal.

B.

Monday: Fog early, followed by dry sunny day.
 Tuesday: Rather cloudy with some rain, bright periods.
 Wednesday: Changeable with rain at times, near normal temperatures.
 Thursday: Rain in places, mainly dry later.
 Friday: Showers at first, sunny spells, little change.
 Saturday: Rain chiefly in the North and West, sunny intervals.
 Sunday: Normal temperatures, max. 20°C, sunshine.

Exercise 3. Write an essay on one of the following topics.

- a) A Lot of People Like Winter (Summer) but I Hate it.
- b) How the Weather Can Help People in Different Situations.
- c) Once I Was Caught in a Rainstorm / Snowstorm.
- d) How the Weather Affects Me.
- e) I Don't Believe Weather Forecasts, I Believe Weather Lore.

2.7. Listening Practice

Exercise 1. Listen to the three weather forecasts. Which forecast corresponds to the postcard?

<p>Dear Martin,</p> <p>Beautiful sunshine for our sightseeing this morning - a bit cold, but we expected that. We got into the local history museum just before the showers started and spent the afternoon there - you'd love it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">All the best, Jenny</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Martin Sullivan</u> <u>15 Church Lane</u> <u>Canterbury</u> <u>CJ4 3DW</u></p>
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Part II. The British Climate

1. Text A

The climate of Britain is more or less the same as that of the north-western part of the European mainland. The popular belief that it rains all the time in Britain is simply not true. The image of a wet, foggy land was created two thousand years ago by the invading Romans and has been perpetuated in modern times by Hollywood.

The amount of rain that falls on a town in Britain depends on where it is. Generally speaking, the further west you go, the more rain you get. The mild winters mean that snow is a regular feature of the higher areas only. Occasionally, a whole winter goes by in lowerlying parts without any snow at all. The winters are in general a bit colder in the east of the country than they are in the west, while in summer, the south is slightly warmer and sunnier than in the north.

Why has Britain's climate got such a bad reputation? Perhaps it is for the same reason that British people always seem to be talking about the weather. This is its changeability. There are many jokes about the English climate. One of them is that there is no climate in England, only weather. And it is true that there is no time of the year when we can really count on its being fine or rainy, warm or cold. It may not rain very much altogether, but you can never be sure of a dry day; there can be cool (even cold) days in July and quite warm days in January.

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 is almost a formality, like shaking hands. "Yes, it's wonderful weather we are having. I hope it will keep fine, it seems almost too good to last long", or "How do you do? A bit parky, isn't it?" Parky means cold, and it is only used when talking about the weather. Other typical comments on the weather are, "What is the weather like down your way?" or "What time did the rain get to your part of the world?"

Then there are people who pretend they know exactly what the weather will do next. That sort of person is always convinced that it will get worse.

English people are apt to complain of the British climate as being damp and rainy, and foreigners laugh at it and say that the English summer is made up of three fine days and a thunderstorm.

The British Isles which are surrounded by the ocean have an insular climate. The three things that chiefly determine the climate of England are: (1) the position of the island in the temperature belt; (2) the fact that the prevailing winds blow from the west and south-west; (3) the warm current - the Gulf Stream that flows from the Gulf of Mexico, along the western shores of England.

The climate is mild. It is hard to say that England has typical weather because of the sudden changes that occur - showers from what was only a few hours before a clear blue sky; sunshine that makes you want to leave off most of your clothes followed by winds that set you wishing for two overcoats. The winter fogs are, indeed, awful; they surpass all imagination.

So, what is the weather like in England in winter? It is not so cold as in Russia. The temperature seldom falls below 3 or 4 degrees. The usual temperature is about zero; the landscape doesn't change very much in winter. The grass remains green all the year round. The air is frequently damp and foggy. It often rains and it seldom snows. The snow usually melts very quickly. The English ports are ice-free and its rivers are not frozen throughout the year. But still, in the winter months, Britain is affected by Polar air. Then there is a cold, dry, biting wind which brings black frosts. February and March are the months with most snow though it can fall as late as June in the Scottish Highlands.

The seasons do not differ too sharply from one another, one merges gradually into another. Spring comes slowly in England and it grows warmer gradually. Spring is the driest season. Cold, dry winds blow, the skies are calm and clear. The weather in spring, however, is changeable, and even if the sky is blue, without a single cloud in the morning, it is always wise to take a mac or an umbrella.

In early summer the winds send fine sunny weather with blue skies in which clouds may build up by day and die away at night. If the temperature goes above 23 or 25 degrees they call it a heatwave, because it is above the usual average temperature for their summers. Thunderstorms are common in summer and the counties in the east get most rain in this season. But the rain is heavier in the hills and it is here that great floods occur which do the most damage in narrow valleys.

Because of its climate England is a land of gardens and flowers. Indeed, they have flowers all the year round. Roses, for example, can be found in flowerbeds from late spring until December.

In early autumn, especially after a fine summer, the air is damp as the sun sinks lower. The temperature falls and mist and fog form in the evening after a fine day. At first they melt in the warmth of the early morning sun but as the days get shorter they may last throughout the day. At other times strong winds bring stormy weather with heavy rains and gales.

The English people find it difficult to convince foreigners that England is not always, or most of the year covered with a thick blanket of fog. It is true that they do have some fog, but only rarely there is such a thick fog that all the traffic comes to a standstill. These thick fogs that are called "pea-soupers" (pea-soup fogs) belonging more to fiction than to fact are very bad for the lungs and can kill people who suffer from bronchitis or asthma.

The weather changes with the change of the season. Winter cold comes back when spring seems already to be here, or warm fine summer days return in mid-October (Indian summer) gilding the autumn leaves.

The highlands and the mountains lie mainly in the west and are affected by the winds off the ocean. The plains lie mainly in the east, and are affected by frosts and drought. But there is a feel of wind almost everywhere. The moods of British weather are really surprising. On the whole the warm moist winds off the warm waters of the North Atlantic Drift are so common that the general climate is very mild.

Droughts occur, but crops are never a complete loss, nor do animals perish. Sometimes a little whirlwind (a "twister") can destroy houses, heavy snowfalls and the much commoner icy roads can stop traffic but fog is the greatest disaster that can happen, causing accidents on roads and railways. These events fill the newspapers, but in contrast with the heatwaves in New York, or blizzards on the prairies, floods in China, droughts in Australia, hurricanes in Florida or tornadoes in Kansas, British weather seems indeed mild.

In England they always have the weather to talk about. So whenever you strike up a conversation in England, may be at the barber's, in the street or on a train journey, you inevitably get around to two subjects - the weather and sport, which are as much part of English life as bacon and eggs, roast beef and the Houses of Parliament.

1.1. Notes on Text A

- 1) a belief - the feeling that something is definitely true or definitely exists
- 2) to perpetuate - to make something continue to exist for a long time - увековечивать, сохранять навсегда
- 3) to count on... - to depend on or to be certain of someone or something - считать на...
- 4) a comment on smth. - an opinion you express about someone or something
- 5) to be apt to do smth. - to have a natural tendency to do smth. - быть склонным к...
- 6) a prevailing wind - a wind that blows over a particular area most of the time
- 7) black frost - a low temperature that causes intense cold without ice crystals - мороз без инея
- 8) to merge into smth. - to seem to disappear into smth. and become part of it
- 9) skies (sg. sky) - the space above the earth. Used mainly in the singular - "небо, небеса". The plural form enters many idiomatic expressions such as "to praise to the skies". In the text the plural form is used for emphasis.
- 10) clouds build up ≠ die away / disperse / lift - clouds, that is the mass of water-vapour which can be seen floating above the earth gather together (disappear) - облака собираются (исчезают)

- 11) a heat-wave - a rather long period of very hot weather - полоса сильной жары
- 12) throughout the day - весь день, с утра до вечера
- 13) a gale - a rather strong wind between a breeze and a storm - сильный штормовой ветер
- 14) a pea-soup fog - a thick, yellow fog especially in London - густой желтый туман
- 15) to gild - (literally) to make smth. look as if it is covered in gold
- 16) off the ocean - the adverb "off" usually means "from" or "away from" smth. In the text the phrase means "ветры, дующие с океана".
- 17) a drought [draut] - a period of dry weather that makes the land hard and affects the crops - засуха
- 18) a whirlwind [wɜ:lwind] - a swift circular movement of the air, a windstorm - вихрь
- 19) a blizzard - a severe snowstorm with a strong wind - буря
- 20) a tornado [to:'neɪdzu] - a very strong whirlwind - сильный вихревой шквал.

1.2. Phonetic Practice

Exercise 1. Look up the words in a dictionary, transcribe and learn them:

gild, blizzard, flood, hurricane, European, image, lowerlying, changeability, altogether, exactly, laugh, insular, occur, surpass, throughout, heatwave, blanket, bronchitis, asthma, drought, complete, whirlwind, Australia, Florida, Kansas, journey, perpetuate.

Exercise 2. Practise the sounds and sound combinations in the following words.

[ɜ:] - first, early, worst, whirlwind, occur, return, further, word, world, merge;

[ei] - rain, great, late, create, invading, shaking, way, say, remain, gale, train;

[ai] - mild, night, biting, higher, while, slightly, fine, dry, July, quite, reply, nice, island, find, icy;

[ɜu] - low, most, ago, Romans, snow, go, only, whole, cold, polar, blow;

[br] - Britain, bring;

[dr] - dry, drought

[gr] - great, grass, grow

[kr] - Christmas

[fr] - frost, frosty, freezing, frozen

[kl] - clear, cloud, climate

[nʌs] - months

[mʊ] - warmth

Exercise 3. Write the degrees of comparison of the following adjectives.

Transcribe them. Practise their reading.

dry, heavy, low, cold, early, soft, icy, great, bad, near, wet, hot, sunny, cloudy, chilly

Exercise 4. Read the rhythmic groups beating the rhythm:

a) two stressed syllables, each followed by an unstressed syllable:

'narrow - valleys

'early - autumn

'winter - weather

a) three stressed syllables:

the 'sun 'sinks - lower

the 'days 'get - shorter

'get 'most - rain

'bring 'stormy - weather

a) three stressed syllables, each preceded by an unstressed syllable:

the 'skies are 'calm and - clear

may 'last through 'out the - day

are a 'ffected by 'frosts and - droughts

the 'bitter 'easterly - winds

the 'moods of 'British - weather

a) four stressed syllables:

'cold 'dry 'winds - blow

'warm 'fine 'summer - days

a 'cold 'dry 'biting - wind

a) four stressed syllables, each followed by several unstressed syllables:

'melt in the 'warmth of the 'early - morning

'causing 'accidents on 'roads and - railways

'crops are 'never a com'plete - loss

1.3. Vocabulary Practice

Exercise 1. Find the English equivalents in the text:

- европейский материк
- общезвестный факт (мнение)
- количество выпадающих осадков
- ...чем дальше на запад, тем дождливее
- мягкие зимы
- иметь плохую репутацию
- ...исходя из того, что британцы, кажется, постоянно говорят о погоде
- об английском климате ходит много шуток
- ...рассчитывать на то, что погода будет хорошей (рассчитывать на хорошую погоду)
- следующая фраза будет наверняка о погоде
- англичане склонны (привыкли) жаловаться на свой климат
- острова, окруженные океаном
- ...три параметра, в основном определяющие климат Великобритании
- ... ветры, преимущественно дующие с запада и юго-запада
- ...из-за внезапно происходящих перемен в погоде
- ливни, за несколько часов до которых было чистое голубое небо
- трава остается зеленой круглый год
- в зимние месяцы британские острова находятся под воздействием полярного воздуха
- погода постепенно становится теплее
- весна - самое сухое время года
- собираться / исчезать (об облаках)
- летом часто бывают грозы
- температура падает и вечером образуется туман
- туман рассеивается в теплых лучах раннего утреннего солнца
- иногда сильные ветры несут с собой грозовую погоду
- ...убеждать иностранцев
- быть покрытым густым туманом
- густой туман скорее из области вымысла, нежели действительности
- ветры, дующие с океана
- причуды английской погоды удивительны
- иногда бывают засухи
- климат Англии кажется умеренным
- разговориться / завести разговор о...
- вы неизбежно коснетесь двух аспектов...

Exercise 2. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Is the climate of Britain different from that of the north-western part of the European mainland?
- 2) Why do English people always seem to be talking about the weather?
- 3) What do Englishmen usually start talking about when they meet?
- 4) What are the three things that chiefly determine the climate of England?
- 5) What is the weather like in Britain in winter?
- 6) What does the cold winter wind bring?
- 7) Which months are marked by most snow?
- 8) Which is the driest season in Britain?
- 9) What is the weather like in Britain in spring?
- 10) Are thunderstorms common in summer?
- 11) What is the weather like in Britain in autumn?
- 12) Why is the climate of the British Isles mild?
- 13) How does the North Atlantic Drift influence the weather of the British Isles?

Exercise 3. Find answers to the following questions in the text.

- 1) Who is supposed to have created the image of Great Britain as that of a wet foggy land?
- 2) What do the mild winters mean?
- 3) Why had Britain's climate got such a bad reputation?
- 4) What does "parky" mean?
- 5) What affects British weather in winter?
- 6) Where can snow fall as late as June?
- 7) Which countries get most rain in summer?
- 8) Where is the rain heavier?
- 9) Where do great floods occur?
- 10) What is Indian summer?
- 11) Why do English people find it difficult to convince foreigners that England is not always covered with a thick blanket of fog?
- 12) What is a "twister"?
- 13) Do heavy snowfalls occur in Great Britain?

Exercise 4. Find factual information in the text to prove that.

1. The climate of Great Britain is more or less the same as that of the north-western part of the European mainland.
2. There are many jokes about the English climate.
3. It is hard to say that England has typical weather.
4. Winters in England are not so cold as in Russia.

5. Spring comes slowly in England.
6. England is a land of gardens and flowers.
7. Fog is the greatest disaster that can happen.
8. British weather can be favourably compared with the weather of other countries.

Exercise 5. Explain the italicized part.

- 1) ...there is a cold, dry, biting wind which *brings black frosts*.
- 2) ...it is here that great floods occur which *do the worst damage in narrow valleys*.
- 3) ...fine summer days return in mid-October *gilding the autumn leaves*.
- 4) ...icy roads *can stop traffic*.
- 5) *The moods of British weather are really surprising*.
- 6) ...thick fogs which are called "pea-soupers" *belong more to fiction than to fact*.

Exercise 6. a) Break up the text into several parts.
b) Give a title to each part.

Exercise 7. Translate the following texts into Russian. Retell the texts in English.

a) It is Raining Cats and Dogs.

When it pours with rain we often say: "It's raining cats and dogs." But we don't know why, and what this saying's original meaning was. In distant times, people thought that witches could turn themselves into cats and ride across the stormy skies on their broomsticks, and cats were thought to be a big influence on the weather. The dog was the servant of the North storm God, Odin, and represented the wind. Cats and dogs from that time have meant the wind and the rain.

b) London Fogs.

Because of its geographical position in a deep river valley London is occasionally enveloped by unusually thick fog. The worst of these fogs began on December 4th, 1952 and there was a similar one in December 1962. All traffic was forced to a standstill as visibility fell to nil. The streets near the centre of London were jammed with buses crawling along at two miles per hour.

At Convent Garden a performance of La Traviata had to be abandoned after the first act because so much fog penetrated into the building that the audience could no longer see the singers clearly. It was a terrible fog and counted the death of some 4.000 people in London.

As a matter of fact this "deadly" kind of fog is called by Londoners "smog". It is the kind of fog you get only in towns - particularly in the industrial areas. It is a mixture of smoke and fog together, and it is dangerous and deadly especially for people who are suffering from any kind of respiratory troubles.

And this now belongs to the past. In 1959 the Clean Air Council began their work of freeing London from the worst kinds of smoke. Now it is no longer allowed to make a fire with ordinary coal, only smokeless fuel can be used. Sunshine in winter has increased by 50 per cent. London has become a fairly clean city, cleaner than most large capitals in the world.

Exercise 8. Render the following text into English.

Климат Великобритании очень влажный, с мягкой зимой, сильными туманами и ветрами и прохладным летом. Погода переменчива даже в течение одного дня. В сводках погоды обычны слова "пасмурная или дождливая погода, временами - солнце". Поэтому важной деталью британского обихода является зонтик, с которым почти никогда не расстаются.

На климат страны действуют циклоны Атлантики. С запада приходят воздушные массы, согретые теплым североатлантическим течением, и несут с собой дожди, наименее влажная часть Великобритании - юго-восток.

Снег выпадает редко, обычно на севере в горах в течение одного - двух месяцев в году. Случается, что снег выпадает и в других районах, но тут же тает. Осенью, зимой и весной обычны сильные ветры, большей частью западные. Зимой часты туманы.

Самый холодный зимний месяц - январь, а самый теплый летний - июль. В январе температура воздуха редко опускается ниже -6° , а летом редко превышает $+15^{\circ}$.

(по кн. Н.М. Польской "Великобритания")

1.4. Grammar Practice

Exercise 1. Complete the passage by translating the Russian adjectives and adverbs in brackets into English in the proper degree.

In England the weather changes (гораздо быстрее) than on the Continent; a fine morning may change into a wet afternoon and evening. And vice versa, a miserable morning may give place to a glorious afternoon.

In England people depend on weather (больше) than on other facts of life. Important football and other matches are often given up because of bad weather.

The two (самые плохие) months in Britain are January and February. Then the days are (гораздо хуже) than in any autumn months, (самое хорошее)

place then is at home by a big fire. (Самая холодная) weather of all, when it freezes night after night and remains cold during the day is (гораздо приятнее) than the wet weather. One feels that one has (гораздо больше) energy than usual. This is the time when hundreds of people put on skates and enjoy one of (самый прекрасный) exercises in the world, skating on ice. If the ground is dry, the snow remains for some time without melting; (больше) snow falls on top of it and soon the whole countryside is coloured white. Nothing is (более приятно) than to wake up one morning and find the whole world covered with a white blanket.

Exercise 2. Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1) Если завтра погода будет такая же, как сегодня, мы поедем за город, если же погода будет хуже, то мы останемся в городе.
- 2) Трудно сказать, какое время года я люблю больше всего.
- 3) Прошлая зима была намного теплее, чем зима три года назад. Было много снега, но он быстро таял. В этом году снега гораздо больше, но и температура гораздо ниже.
- 4) Погода на Британских островах испытывает на себе сильное влияние течения Гольфстрим. Даже в горах на севере страны климат мягче, чем на юге.
- 5) Климат, погода в разные времена года имеют, возможно, больше влияния на характер людей, их традиции и мировоззрение (outlook), чем мы думаем.

2. Text B

The Weather in Great Britain

“Other countries have a climate; in England we have weather.” This statement, often made by Englishmen to describe the peculiar meteorological conditions of their country, is both revealing and true. It is revealing because in it we see the Englishman insisting once again that what happens in England is not the same as what happens elsewhere; its truth can be ascertained by any foreigner who stays in the country for longer than a few days.

In no country other than England, it has been said, can one experience four seasons in the course of a single day! Day may break as a balmy spring morning; an hour or so later black clouds may have appeared from nowhere and the rain may be pouring down. At midday conditions may be really wintry with the temperature down by about eight degrees or more Centigrade. And then, in the late afternoon the sky will clear, the sun will begin to shine, and for an hour or two before darkness falls, it will be summer.

In England one can experience almost every kind of weather except the most extreme. (Some foreigners, incidentally seem to be under the impression that for ten months of the year the country is covered by a dense blanket of fog; this is not true.) The snag is that we never can be sure when the different types of weather will occur. Not only do we get several different sorts of weather in one day, but we may very well get a spell of winter in summer and vice versa.

This uncertainty about the weather has had a definite effect upon the Englishman's character; it tends to make him cautious, for example. The foreigner may laugh when he sees the Englishman setting forth on a brilliantly sunny morning wearing a raincoat and carrying an umbrella, but he may well regret his laughter later in the day! The English weather has also helped to make the Englishman adaptable. It has been said that one of the reasons why the English colonized so much of the world was that, whatever the weather conditions they met abroad, they had already experienced something like them at home!

And, of course, the weather's variety provides a constant topic of conversation. Even the most taciturn of Englishmen is always prepared to discuss the weather. And, though he sometimes complains bitterly of it, he would not, even if he could, exchange it for the more predictable climate of other lands.

2.1. Vocabulary Practice

Exercise 1. Do the following points.

- 1) What is the difference between the words climate and weather?
- 2) What is to ascertain the truth?
- 3) What does balmy mean?
- 4) What is meant by the extreme kinds of weather?
- 5) Find another word for dense in the phrase "dense blanket of fog".
- 6) What does to appear from nowhere mean?
- 7) What is a snag?
- 8) What is "a spell of winter"? What is the other meaning of the word?
- 9) What are the countries called that are colonized? What are the inhabitants of those countries called?
- 10) Find a word or phrase meaning taciturn.
- 11) What does predictable mean? What is its opposite?

Exercise 2. Answer the questions on the text "The Weather in Great Britain".

- 1) How would you distinguish the weather in England from that in many other countries?
- 2) How long do you think it would take you to discover the characteristics of English weather?

- 3) Describe briefly how you could experience “four seasons in one day” in England.
- 4) What misapprehension are many foreigners under concerning Britain’s weather?
- 5) What is the one constant characteristic of English weather?
- 6) How has the English weather affected the Englishman’s character?
- 7) What connections, if any, do you think there may perhaps be between English weather and the growth of the British Empire?
- 8) Why is the weather a constant topic of conversation in England?
- 9) What is the Englishman’s fundamental attitude towards his weather?

Exercise 3. Write an essay on the kind of weather you like best, giving your reasons.

2.2. Reading Practice

Exercise 1. Read the following paragraphs and decide in which numbered gap each paragraph goes in the text “Lightning Strike” below. There is one paragraph you do not need to use.

- A. Predicting when and where lightning is likely to strike is one of the ways we have made it less of a danger. Forecasting lightning is taken most seriously in America, where scientists keep a constant lookout for weather patterns that could lead to violent storms using weather satellites and ground-based stations. Once the storms appear, teams of observers in the areas at risk report back on where the storm is and where it is going.
- B. Things used to be much worse. According to research by Dr Derek Elsom the number of fatalities has dropped by 80 per cent since the mid-1850s. This isn’t because lightning is less common, but because fewer people now work in the open.
- C. Before scientists started this vital work people could not do very much to protect themselves or their buildings from lightning. In fact up until the 18th century people were given dramatic proof that lightning really can strike the same place twice. Between 1388 and 1762, the famous bell tower of San Marco in Venice was severely damaged or completely destroyed nine times.
- D. Many people - including scientists - claim to have seen ball lightning and are in no doubt about its existence. The experiences of a certain William Morris during a thunderstorm in 1936 are typical: “I saw a red-hot ball come down from the sky. It struck our house, cut the telephone wire, burnt the window frame and then buried itself in a tub of hot water. The water boiled for some time afterwards, but when it was cool enough for me to search I could find nothing there.”

Lightning Strike

It is not surprising that people in the past were afraid of lightning and thought it was a sign of anger from their gods. In fact we still find lightning thrilling and fascinating. It is now also an important area of research for scientists, who are trying to uncover its secrets and are looking for ways to predict storms and protect people against lightning strikes.

(1 _____)

In England and Wales things are not quite as bad as they were in Italy, but about a dozen people are struck by lightning every year and a quarter of those are killed as a result. Men are six times more likely to be struck by lightning than women.

(2 _____)

The experience of Roy Sullivan shows how dangerous it can be to work outside. Roy, a former park ranger in Virginia, USA, held the world record for being struck by lightning. He was first hit in 1942, losing just the nail from his big toe. He was struck again in 1969, 1970, 1972 and 1973. In 1976 a strike hurt his ankle and in 1977 he suffered chest and stomach burns. After surviving all this, he killed himself in 1983.

(3 _____)

But even the most advanced forecasting systems can sometimes be caught out when the weather springs one of its surprises. In March 1993, Florida and other states of America were struck by driving blizzards and severe lightning storms. At the peak the "Sunshine State" was hit by an astonishing 5.000 strikes an hour. The cause of the storm and the reason it suddenly died out as it travelled north, is yet another mystery of the lightning phenomenon.

2.3. Listening Practice

Exercise 1. Listen to this account of the months of the year as seen in England.

The Months of the Year.

by Sara Coleridge (1802-1852)

January brings the snow;
Makes the toes and fingers glow.
February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen ponds again.
March brings breezes loud and shrill,
Stirs the dancing daffodil.
April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daisies at our feet,
May brings flocks of pretty lambs

Skippping by their fleecy dams.
June brings tulips, lilies, roses,
Fills the children's hands with posies.
Hot July brings cooling showers,
Strawberries and gillyflowers.
August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the Harvest home is borne.
Warm September brings the fruit,
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.
Fresh October brings the pheasant,
Dull November brings the blast,
Then to gather nuts is pleasant,
Then the leaves are falling fast.
Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire and Christmas treat.

- Exercise 2. a) Listen to this weather forecast for the British Isles.
b) What is today's weather forecast where you are?

Tapescript: The Weather.

And now here is the weather forecast for the next twenty-four hours for the whole of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Ah starting with Southern England and the Midlands, well it'll be mainly dry and sunny, but quite cold, with temperatures around six or seven degrees Celsius. It should stay dry all day, but there'll be quite a wind, so wrap up warm.

And the West country, Wales and Northern Ireland. You can expect some rain in the morning and afternoon and quite strong north easterly winds, and the temperature will be lower than yesterday, around the three or four degrees mark. I don't think you'll see much of the sun: cloudy all day, I'm afraid. The East coast of England will see the best of today's weather. It'll be warmer than yesterday, no winds, and sunshine, so quite warm for the time of year.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, however, there will be heavy rain and maybe some snow during the afternoon, and on the hills temperatures will drop to below freezing, minus four and five, and on the highest spots minus ten. Over much of Scotland it will be cloudy, and windy too as the cold front moves in over the Atlantic. Northern Ireland can expect the same, but the rain will end before dark. But again very cold, with temperatures not going above freezing.

And that's all from me.

2.4. Writing Practice

Exercise 1. Write a summary of the following text.

Cold? Britain Is Actually Getting Hotter.

Most Britons could be forgiven for thinking a new Ice Age is upon us. Small comfort, then, as we struggle through snowdrifts and cope with burst pipes, that the present cold is a sign the British climate is generally getting milder.

Ironically, most scientists now believe the short sharp shock of severe cold that has struck Europe for three winters running is an indicator that the world is growing warmer. The burning of fossil fuels is building up a blanket of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, creating a "greenhouse" effect.

Britain and Europe have certainly experienced weather this cold before. In the 17th century, the Thames froze solid so often that it became a regular winter sports attraction. The weather then was so severe that it is sometimes referred to as a little Ice Age. Even in the early 19th century, Britain's climate was still colder than it is today. We still have a cherished picture of Charles Dickens' Christmases - although, in fact, snow at Christmas has been a rarity in Southern England for 150 years.

Studies of temperature trends around the world show that it has been warming up since the middle of the 19th century. Most experts agree that it is a result of human activities. By burning coal and oil, we are putting carbon dioxide into the air. This acts like a blanket around the earth, trapping heat that would otherwise escape into space. As long as we keep burning fossil fuel, the trend is likely to continue. So why have we had such severe cold spells in Europe recently? According to the researchers of the University of East Anglia, it is all part of the same process. When the climate of the globe changes, it doesn't do so evenly. Britain and Western Europe are just unlucky in being in the path of a particularly significant wind shift.

By comparing the weather in different seasons, during the 19th century and the coldest years of the 20th century, the researchers have built up a picture of what is going on. Their key new discovery is that although spring, summer and autumn are all warmer, severe cold spells in winter are most likely over the whole of Central Europe. So then, short cold spells mean it's generally getting warmer - but the bad news is it could get TOO warm. If the predictions come true - and the present changes are exactly in line with computer forecasts - within the next 40 or 100 years we shall see a change in climate as dramatic as the shift which ended the last Ice Age.

Note:

A summary is the expression of the essence of some piece of writing in a condensed form. The main ideas of the piece should be presented clearly, concisely and precisely. The length of a summary makes up approximately one third of the length of the original source. Writing a summary includes seven stages:

- 1) reading the original text to grasp the main idea;
- 2) re-reading the passage to check up your understanding;
- 3) selecting the essential points;
- 4) linking the points in a logical order;
- 5) writing a rough copy of a new concise text;
- 6) comparing the summary with the original passage to see whether all essentials are included;
- 7) writing a fair copy of a summary.

In writing a summary only the information taken from the passage should be used. A summary does not contain repetitions, illustrative details, figures of speech, wordy phrases consisting of meaningless words. A good summary shows one's ability to understand and present ideas.

PART 3. Time

1. Text A

If I want to know the time I look at my watch. I have got a gold wrist-watch with a leather strap. It keeps fairly good time, but occasionally it goes wrong. Sometimes it is three minutes slow, sometimes it is a minute fast. When it does that I take it to a watchmaker and have it repaired, cleaned and regulated.

“What time is it?” is an age-old question. Here are some of the ways man has found an answer. In ancient times Chinese travellers designed a unique alarm clock. They simply stuck a piece of slow-burning incense between their toes as they slept by the side of the road. When the incense burnt down to the traveller’s toes, he awoke with a start!

Since the earliest times man has found it necessary to keep track of time. Probably our earliest ancestors took advantage of the greatest of all time-pieces - the sun. By the shadows it cast along familiar landmarks, the caveman probably marked the passing of his day. This was the beginning of the sundial.

To tell the time at night people invented the water clock. In desert countries water was often hard to find but sand was always available. The sand clock was made by joining two small-necked glass globes together so that sand could run slowly from one to another in an hour’s time.

Some of today’s world-famous clocks were constructed centuries ago. One of the most remarkable clocks was built in 1530 in Berne, Switzerland. Not only does it give a miniature performance every hour, but it also shows the day of the week, the date, the position of the sun and the phases of the moon.

A year is the average time, it takes the Earth to go once round the sun. There are 12 months or 52 weeks, or 365 days in a year. Every four years there is a leap year. This has 366 days. The English names of the months are of Latin origin: January was named after Janus, the god of Time. March was called after Mars, the god of War. July was named after Julius Caesar and so on. We all know the names of the months, but not all of us can quite remember how many days there are in each month. Here is a little poem that will help us:

Thirty days have September,
April, June and November.
All the rest have thirty-one.
February has twenty-eight alone,
Excepting leap year, that’s the time
When February’s days are twenty-nine.

There are seven days in a week. The names of the days are very old, they were chosen in the days when people worshipped a different god each day. Sunday was the Sun’s day, the next day was the Moon’s day or Monday. Tues-

day was called after Tiu, the god of war. Wednesday was Woden's day, the highest god of the Teutonic peoples. Thor was the thunder god, his day was called Thor's day or Thursday. Woden's wife insisted on having a special day of her own. Her name was Freya, so her day was Friday. Saturn was the Roman god of the fields, his day was Saturn's day or Saturday.

One day we learned a short rhyme which helped me to remember the names of the days at once:

Solomon Grundy
Born on Monday,
Christened on Tuesday,
Married on Wednesday,
Ill on Thursday,
Worse on Friday,
Died on Saturday,
Buried on Sunday.
That was the end
of Solomon Grundy.

There are 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour and 60 seconds in a minute. The sun rises in the East in the morning. The beginning of the day is day-break or dawn. Then comes morning, noon, afternoon, evening and night.

In British and American culture time is seen as a valuable commodity. It is limited and it has to be used carefully to accomplish our goals. For example, work is typically associated with the time it takes and people are paid by the hour, week or year. It is a culture where TIME IS MONEY in many ways: hourly wages, hotel room rates, interest on loans, etc. Here are the examples to see how the link between TIME and MONEY is reflected in the English language:

How do you spend your time these days?
You're wasting my time.
This gadget will save you hours.
This flat tyre cost me an hour.
I've invested a lot of time in this idea.

At any major English dictionary you will see the importance of time and how it is reflected in the large number of expressions containing this word:

Someone like Salvador Dali was ahead of his time.
The Beatles were a bit before my time.
The coat he is wearing is a little behind the time.
I'm in no hurry. I have time to kill.
There wasn't much traffic so we got there in good time.

1.1. Vocabulary. National Concepts

A. Periods of time -words and typical contexts.

The Ice Age, the Stone Age, the Middle Ages, the age of the computer (major historical / geological periods)

- 1) After the war, a new era of peace began (long period, perhaps several decades).
- 2) The doctor said I needed a period of rest and relaxation, so I'm taking three months' unpaid leave (very general word).
- 3) A spell of hot weather. He's had a couple of spells in hospital in the last two or three years (indefinite but short).
- 4) During the 1950s I lived in Cork for a time (vague, indefinite).
- 5) D'you want to borrow this book for a while? (indefinite but not too long)

B. Useful phrases with time:

- 1) The doctor says you should stay in bed for the time being (not specific).
- 2) He can get a bit bad-tempered at times.
- 3) By the time we get home this pizza will be cold!
- 4) One at a time, please! I can't serve you all together.
- 5) We got there just in time for dinner.
- 6) I expected you to be late, the trains are never on time.
- 7) I've told you time and again not to ring me at the office.

C. Verbs associated with time passing:

- 8) Ten years have passed / elapsed since I last heard from her.
Elapse is more formal and is normally used in the perfect or past, without adverbs. Pass can be used in any tense and with adverbs. E.g. Don't worry, the time will pass quickly. Time passes very slowly when you're lonely.
- 9) It takes 12 hours to fly to Singapore.
- 10) The batteries in this radio usually last about three or four months.
- 11) This videotape lasts / runs for three hours.
- 12) This meeting went on for two hours (suggests longer than expected or desired).

Note also: Take your time, you don't need to hurry.

D. Adjectives describing duration (how long something lasts):

- 1) He is a temporary lecturer; the permanent one's on leave.
- 2) Could we make a provisional booking now and confirm it later?
- 3) Venice has a timeless beauty.
- 4) Christians believe in eternal life after death.

1.2. Additional Vocabulary

1. All in good time. - Все в свое время.
2. In due time (course). - В свое время.
3. At all times. - Во все времена.
4. At any time. - В любое время.
5. For a time. - На время, временно.
6. For lack of time. - За отсутствием времени.
7. From time to time. - Иногда, изредка.
8. In good time. - Своевременно, вовремя.
9. He's short of time (pressed for time). - Ему не хватает времени.
10. Time presses (time is short). - Время не ждет.
11. I have no time to spare. - У меня нет времени.
12. To cheat time - Коротать время.
13. To have a good time. - Хорошо провести время.
14. To idle away the time. - Проводить время в безделье.
15. Time flies (time is on wings). - Время бежит.
16. Ahead of time. - Раньше времени.
17. In an ill time. - В недобрый час.
18. Tough time. - Трудные времена.
19. In an early hour. - Рано.
20. Rush hours. - Часы пик.
21. Leisure hours. - Часы досуга.
22. What is the time by your watch? - Как вы думаете,
What time do you make it? который час?
Can you tell me the time?
23. It (must be) smth. like seven. - (Должно быть) около семи.
It is close upon seven. - Скоро семь.
It is about to strike seven. - Скоро пробьет семь.
It is not yet seven. - Еще нет семи.
It is exactly (precisely, sharp) seven. - Ровно семь.
24. My watch is going fast (it gains). - Мои часы спешат.
25. Your watch is going slow (it loses). = Your watch is behind time. - Ваши часы отстают.
26. My watch is right on the dot. - Мои часы идут минута в минуту.
27. Put the clock on. - Поставьте часы верно.
28. My watch has stopped. - Мои часы остановились.
29. Your watch needs winding up. - Ваши часы нужно завести.
30. The clock will have to be mended (repaired). - Часы требуют починки.
31. To set the watch by guess - поставить часы наугад.
32. To set back / to put on - подводить назад / вперед.

1.3. Vocabulary Practice

Exercise 1. Fill the gaps with the appropriate words (age, era, spell, period, time).

- 1) The Minister said that before the new law came into force there would be a ... of six months when people could hand in firearms without being prosecuted.
- 2) The twentieth century will be seen by historians as the ... of the motor car.
- 3) These factories mark the beginning of a new ... of industrial development for the country.
- 4) For a ... I thought I would never find a job, but then I was lucky.
- 5) We had a very cold ... in February when all the pipes froze up.

Exercise 2. Which phrases from B (1.1. Vocabulary) could you use in the following situations. Write exactly as you might say, as in the example.

Example: To a child who repeatedly leaves the fridge door open despite being told off often. - "I've told you time and again not to leave that fridge door open!"

- 1) To someone you're happy to see who arrives just as you are serving tea / coffee.
- 2) On a postcard you expect will arrive at someone's house after you do.
- 3) A large group of people want to talk to you but you'd prefer to see them individually.
- 4) Ask someone to use an old photocopier while the new one is being repaired.
- 5) Explain to someone that the weather occasionally gets very cold in your country.
- 6) Tell someone you'd do your best to arrive punctually at a meeting.

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences using verbs from C (1.1. Vocabulary).

- 1) Use this cassette to record, it will
- 2) These shoes have been great, they've
- 3) Everyone got bored because the speeches
- 4) The disaster occurred in 1932. Many years
- 5) I'll miss you terribly, I only hope the weeks
- 6) There's no hurry at all, just

Exercise 4. Match the queries with suitable responses.

- 1) So, she's been promoted?
- 2) A lovely, quiet place?
- 3) So she's agreed to do it?
- 4) So, after death, life goes on?
- 5) Language classes in the gym?

Well, provisionally.
Yes, she's permanent now.
It's a temporary measure.
Yes, absolutely timeless.
Yes, I believe it's eternal.

Exercise 5. Look at the following expressions related to time. Match each one with one of the definitions.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1) Let's call it a day. | = well before the deadline |
| 2) He left on the dot of 6.00. | = a disastrous day |
| 3) You can stay here for the time-being. | = spontaneously |
| 4) She goes to bed in the early hours. | = give pleasure |
| 5) We decided on the spur of the moment. | = at 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. |
| 6) Some news can make my day. | = just before it's too late |
| 7) I like to arrive at the airport in good time. | = at exactly that time |
| 8) It was just one of those days. | = very quickly / soon |
| 9) We'll be here in no time (at all). | = finish what we're doing |
| 10) She left the building in the nick of time. | = temporarily |

Exercise 6. Complete the following sentences using one of the above "time" expressions.

- 1) It's impossible to make such a big decision ... ; I need to think about it first.
- 2) Don't worry, the ambulance is on its way. It'll be here
- 3) He is a very precise sort of person. If his meeting is at 9.30 a.m. then he will arrive at 9.30
- 4) This solution may not be perfect, but we have to make a quick decision: I believe that
- 5) Last night I was frying some steak when the telephone rang. I started talking and forgot the steak. Suddenly I smelt something burning so I rushed into the kitchen and turned off the gas ... !

Now write your own sentences with the five remaining expressions.

1.4. Oral Practice

Exercise 1. Read Text "Time" carefully and answer the following questions.

- 1) What do we do if we want to know the time?
- 2) Where do we take our watch when it goes fast or slow?
- 3) What did Chinese travellers design in ancient times?
- 4) How did the caveman mark the passing of his day?
- 5) What did people invent to tell the time at night?
- 6) What clock was invented in desert countries?
- 7) When and where was one of the most remarkable clocks built?
- 8) What is a year?
- 9) How many months, weeks, days are there in a year?
- 10) What is a leap year? How often does it occur?
- 11) Explain the English names of the months.

- 12) How many days are there in a week?
- 13) When does the sun rise?
- 14) What is the beginning of the day?

Exercise 2. Give a summary of the text.

Exercise 3. Answer the questions to see how efficiently you use your time. Circle a, b, c or d.

1. How would you describe the pace of your life in general?
 - a) Natural. I just let things happen.
 - b) Quite-fast, but I do stop to smell the flowers.
 - c) Sometimes frantic, sometimes relaxed.
 - d) Demanding, sometimes non-stop, but I like it that way.
2. How do you deal with what you have to do every day?
 - a) I do first what attracts me most.
 - b) I do the most important things and put off the rest.
 - c) There always seems to be too much or too little. I do what's really urgent.
 - d) I deal with things in order of importance.
3. Which of the following is nearest to your philosophy on life?
 - a) Go where life takes you.
 - b) Life is not a dress rehearsal.
 - c) To everything there is a season.
 - d) Do it now.
4. What do you feel about punctuality?
 - a) I don't waste energy worrying about being on time.
 - b) Being on time is polite and efficient, and I try to be that way.
 - c) I'd love to arrive on time, and I get furious with people who are late.
5. How many things have you begun and not finished in the last few years?
 - a) One or two minor things, but not too many.
 - b) Quite a few. I always seem to get distracted.
 - c) Lots of things. I have sudden enthusiasms and then drop them.
 - d) There are no uncompleted projects in my life - I have always finished things.
6. How do you like to spend your leisure time?
 - a) I don't know what to do with my time off - it just slips away.
 - b) I relax and recharge my batteries, and maybe follow a sport or interest.
 - c) I do one or two little jobs, but nothing very energetic. This is my most enjoyable occupation.
 - d) I don't have any leisure time. All my time is put to good use.

Exercise 4. You are going to read a parable written in the 19th century. In the story two possible endings are given. Which ending do you prefer? Why? What are the morals of the different endings?

The Man Who Could Turn Back the Clock

Once upon a time there was a man who had the power to turn back the clock. Whenever he regretted something he had done or said, he could repeat the event in the light of experience.

Now one day it happened that this man was out for a walk when it started to rain, so he took shelter in a barn. After a few minutes the man was joined by a very beautiful young lady and her dog, who were also seeking shelter. The downpour lasted about an hour.

The man went home to his wife and told her why he was late. Immediately his wife was suspicious of her husband's behaviour with the young lady. She questioned him about what had happened. The man replied in a surprised and hurt voice: "Why, nothing happened. I was a perfect gentleman. What did you expect? Especially when she had such a large dog with her."

His wife was furious: "What! Only the dog stopped you!"

The man realized his mistake and immediately he turned the clock back a few minutes and tried the conversation again. This time when his wife expressed her suspicion, he said: "It's true the girl was very beautiful and she seemed to like me but my deep love for you gave me the strength to resist temptation."

However, his wife was even more furious: "What! You wanted to kiss her! An immoral thought is as bad as an immoral deed."

1.

The man spent a long time thinking. There must be some way to please his wife! Finally he turned the clock back again a few minutes. Once more his wife asked how he had behaved with the beautiful young lady. But this time he replied: "What? She wasn't beautiful, she was ugly! I am a man with good taste, which is why I married you, my darling!" When she heard this, his wife, who in fact was rather unattractive, flung her arms around his neck and cried: "I love you!"

2.

The man felt that his wonderful power had not helped him at all. Except to teach him that it was impossible to please his wife, and he had suspected this for a long time. Therefore he turned back the clock once more, not just a few minutes, but a few hours. He went back to the beautiful young lady in the barn, in the rain.

Exercise 5. Comment upon the following proverbs and sayings and illustrate their meaning.

- 1) Time cures all things.
- 2) Time works wonders.

- 3) Time is the great healer.
- 4) How time flies!
- 5) Lost time is never found again.

Exercise 6. Talking points.

- 1) Imagine your life without clocks and watches.
- 2) Why do people keep an alarm clock at home as a rule?
- 3) What kind of watches shall we have in a future?
- 4) How are children taught to tell the right time?
- 5) When do people feel that time drags on?
- 6) When does time fly very quickly?

2. Text B

Read and act out the following dialogue.

The Watch

G. - What time is it by your watch, Tom?

T. - What time? Well, it's ... it's 5 minutes past 4.

G. - Five past four?

T. - Yes. What surprises you? And what time do you make it?

G. - Well, by my watch it is 5 to 4. Either your watch is fast or mine is slow.

T. - Yours is slow, of course. Didn't you hear the tower clock strike four a few minutes ago?

G. - No.

T. - My watch is right on the dot. I checked the time by radio this morning.

G. - I just wonder what could have happened to my watch. It was such a good time-keeper.

T. - Perhaps it needs winding up?

G. - Think so? Well, it might be. I can't quite recollect whether I wound it up this morning.

T. - Well?

G. - No, it doesn't seem to be run down. There's something wrong with it, after all.

T. - Well, let's drop in at a watchmaker's. There's one at the corner of N. and M. Streets.

G. - Do you think we have time?

T. - Why, yes! It won't take him long to "diagnose the case".

G. - I hate taking my watch to the watchmaker, but nothing can be done, I suppose.

T. - Why don't you like to deal with watchmaker's?

G. - Well, it might be a kind of prejudice but I can't help feeling that my favourite watch will never keep good time any more.

T. - Nonsense! Get it out of your head. Well, here we are.

G. - Good afternoon, sir.

Watchmaker (W.) - Good afternoon, gentlemen. What can I do for you?

G. - I would like you to have a look at my watch. There's something wrong with it.

W. - Let me see it, please.

G. - Yes. What a nuisance these straps are. Here it is, please.

W. - Nothing much the matter with it. Needs cleaning, that's all.

G. - Yes? How long will it take to have it cleaned?

W. - Well, a couple of days, I suppose. Will you leave it?

G. - I think I will.

W. - Your name, please.

G. - Hamilton. George Hamilton.

W. - (giving the receipt) Here you are, sir.

G. - Thank you. Good-bye.

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«SEASONS AND WEATHER» и «TIME»

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