

Weather

Task 1: Pre-reading discussion

Look at the following groups or pairs of words and discuss what the difference is between them:

- snow, sleet and hail
- a storm and a blizzard
- a breeze, a gale and a hurricane
- flooding and droughts
- mist and fog
- a shower and sunny spells
- rain and humidity
- a hurricane and a tornado

Task 2: Pronunciation

Match the beginnings of six weather phenomena with the ends of the words. The words are all written in phonemic script, so this is how the words **sound** – **not** how we spell them.

a) 'blɪz	1) ts
b) 'hʌŋk	2) dz
c) 'saɪkl	3) ədz
d) draʊ	4) ɪtɪ
e) hju:'mɪd	5) ənz
f) flʌ	6) əʊnz

Write the written word (i.e. how we spell it) and the corresponding phonemic script next to each other and practise saying them with the correct pronunciation and word stress.

Task 3: Collocations

It is useful to know which adjectives collocate strongly with which nouns. For example, we don't say "strong rain", but "heavy rain".

Can you match an adjective below in column A to a noun in column B so that they form strong collocations? In some cases there will be more than one possibility. Use a monolingual dictionary to help you.

A	B
torrential	gales
flash	humidity
severe	spells
dense	weather conditions
sunny	rain
freak	storms
violent	floods
high	fog

Task 4: Pre-reading discussion

Discuss the following questions with a partner.

1. In what ways can we predict the weather?
2. There are many sayings in English about the weather. For example:
Red sky at night, shepherd's delight; red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning.
What do you think this saying means?
Are there any similar sayings in your own language? Can you translate them into English and say what they mean?
3. Do you think the weather can influence our moods? If so, in what way?
4. Do you think the weather can influence the personalities of people living in different countries or regions? If so, in what way?