

Storm coming!



1. **Work in pairs. Take turns to answer the question in as many different ways as possible. Your answers don't have to be true.**

What's the weather like? *It's hot. / It's snowing. / etc.*

2. **Discuss the questions in pairs.**

1. What's your favourite season? Why?
2. Do you have many extreme weather events in your country? What season do they occur?
3. Has there been any unexpected weather in the last few months? Do you think weather patterns are changing in your country? If so, why do you think this is?
4. Which of these are common problems in your country or region? Use a dictionary to help you.

**blizzards flooding forest fires heatwaves hurricanes/cyclones/typhoons¹
drought smog tornadoes tidal surges**

¹ These are names for the same weather event, but in different parts of the world.



3. Match each extract from a news report to one of the words in Exercise 2. Where in the world might these extracts be from?

1. With temperatures **exceeding** 40 degrees in parts of the country, the chance of more rain is still a long way off. If the **monsoon** fails again, it could **destroy harvests** which millions of people in _____ rely on.
2. Towns along the River _____ have been **coping with** flooded streets and houses after unusually **heavy rains** caused the river to burst its banks. **Residents are being advised** to take food and other **essential items** upstairs or to higher ground.
3. **Firefighters** are struggling to get the flames **under control**. Smoke is making the job harder, but if the winds change direction, it could **spread** to villages in the _____ region.
4. **Conditions** in _____ mean that many roads in the area are **blocked**, with more **heavy snowfall expected** tonight. **Police are advising** drivers to avoid travel if at all possible.
5. _____ is experiencing some of the worst **air pollution** of the year this weekend. **Levels of** PM2.5 particles, the tiny particles in the air that can harm the lungs, are at 24 times **the recommended limit**, meaning that just going outside is **hazardous**.
6. At least two people were killed when it touched down in the centre of _____ last night. It **caused a great deal of damage**, destroying several buildings in its path.
7. **Poor ocean conditions** caused flooding in the port of _____ yesterday, **affecting dozens of families**, who had to **evacuate**. The **threat from flooding due to rising sea levels** is becoming increasingly serious and the need for more **effective defences** more urgent.

4. Look at the extracts in Exercise 3 again. Find words or expressions in bold that mean...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. bad weather (at sea) | e. going over, being more than |
| b. danger | f. impossible to be used because something is in the way |
| c. dangerous | g. leave your home |
| d. destroyed a lot of property | h. lots of rain/snow |



Listening

5. Listen to three news reports and answer the questions about each report. What do all the events have in common?

1. What is the weather event?
2. Where in the world is it?
3. When does it happen?

6. Listen to the reports again. Which of the weather events ...

- a. is not immediately dangerous to people?
- b. is affecting poor people worse?
- c. is damaging the economy?
- d. is good news to some people?
- e. is more common in other parts of the country?
- f. means that next time it is likely to be even worse?

7. Discuss the questions in pairs

Which of the three news reports is the most worrying, in your opinion? Why?

What can be done now to reduce the chances that the climate will become more extreme in the future? By ordinary people? By governments?

8. Work in groups. You are the Emergency Planning Committee of your town or region: police officers, politicians and emergency service planners. An extreme weather event is threatening to hit your region. Your job is to prepare the region for the event and keep everyone safe. Follow the steps.

- Choose a weather event that could affect your region in the future.
- Decide what measures you will take to save lives and protect property. Search online for ideas, e.g. 'how to survive a ...'.
- Decide the message you will give the public and the advice they need to stay safe.
- Write a series of tweets to communicate your message to the public.

