

🌸 Weather and Climate 🌸



It is raining.
It is a rainy day.



It is snowing.
It is a snowy day.



The wind is blowing.
It is a windy day.



The sun is shining.
It is a sunny day

Vocabulary

The underlined words in these sentences are in the reading. Look them up or ask a classmate or a teacher for their meanings.

Nouns

1. A meteorologist studies the weather.
2. Rain and snow are forms of precipitation.
3. The humidity is high when there is a lot of moisture in the air.
4. The relative humidity is the percentage of moisture in the air.
5. There are four major climatic zones.
6. "Damp" is similar in meaning to "moist."
7. Huge masses of ice are glaciers.
8. Climate change is caused by natural or man-made conditions.

Verb

9. Meteorologists try to predict the weather.

Adjectives

10. When it is hot and the air is full of moisture we say it is muggy.
11. The warm zones are called tropical areas.
12. Temperate climates are not too hot or too cold.
13. The continental climate gets quite hot and quite cold.
14. The polar zones are very cold.

Weather and Climate

(CD track 5)

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody can do anything about it. However, we can **predict** the weather. **Meteorologists** can look ahead a few days. They can predict rain. They are usually right, but not always. In other words, we cannot really control the weather.

Weather is a daily event. The daily weather report includes **precipitation** (rain and snow) and temperature (hot and cold). It also can include **humidity** (moisture in the air) and wind strength and direction. **Relative humidity** is a measure of **dampness**. It is the percentage of moisture in the air compared to the amount the air can hold at that temperature. If the relative humidity is high, people complain that it is **muggy**.

Climate is, in general, the result of 365 days of weather. Over several years there is an average pattern of weather. We call it the climate. Climates can be hot, cold, wet, or dry.

The climate around Earth's belt is called **tropical**. It is warm all year. There is not much change from season to season. Next to the tropical belt are **temperate** and **continental climatic zones**, and near the poles, **polar** climate.



Over long periods of time, climate can change. Ten thousand years ago, much of the northern hemisphere was covered with a **glacier**, a great sheet of ice. Earth's climate has changed throughout its history. However, it now appears that Earth's climate is changing very rapidly. This change is called **climate change**, and we are causing that change. It appears we can't change today's weather, but we can change our climate. (260 words)

Comprehension Check (answers on page 61)

Answer the questions with either **OK** or **Not OK**.

1. Meteorologists can predict Earth's climate. _____
2. Meteorologists study meteors. _____
3. Rain is a form of precipitation. _____
4. Humidity is produced by wind. _____
5. Climate is the average pattern of weather over time. _____
6. Earth's equatorial belt is called the temperate zone. _____
7. Glaciers are huge bodies of liquid water. _____
8. Earth's climate was different 10,000 years ago. _____

Match the phrase on the left with a phrase on the right. (answers on page 61)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Meteorologists can predict | _____ a. seasons. |
| 2. Weather is | _____ b. has changed. |
| 3. There are four | _____ c. the weather. |
| 4. The tropical climate is | _____ d. a daily event. |
| 5. Over time | _____ e. climates can change. |
| 6. Glaciers covered | _____ f. the northern hemisphere. |
| 7. Earth's climate | _____ g. is called global warming. |
| 8. Today's climate change | _____ h. warmer than the polar zone. |

Dictation (page 64) (CD track 15)

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

***The coldest recorded temperature on Earth was -128.6° F in Antarctica.
The hottest recorded temperature on Earth was 136° in Libya.
The highest recorded wind speed was 231 miles per hour
on Mount Washington, New Hampshire.***

Listening and Performing (CD track 25)

Jill: I'm so excited. Tomorrow we'll be in sunny Mexico. Did you check the weather report?

Jack: Yeah. Rain, rain, rain.

Jill: Come on! Are you sure? This is the dry season. It doesn't rain there this time of year.

Jack: Just kidding. One week of glorious sun. Low humidity. 70s and 80s.

Jill: Why do we live in this climate, anyway?

Jack: Well, for one thing, our jobs are here in Minnesota.

Jill: We could save some money and retire in the tropics.

Jack: I'm all for that. Let's start saving – and learning Spanish.

Jill: Great idea! Let's go to that new Mexican restaurant tonight. The menu's in Spanish.

Jack: Uh, Jill. Look outside. It's snowing.

Jill: And you still haven't put the snow tires on, have you?

Guess these words and expressions.

weather report

Come on!

dry season

just kidding

retire

tropics

I'm all for that.

snow tires

Write sentences with these words.

1. predict _____
2. meteorologist _____
3. precipitation _____
4. relative humidity _____
5. damp _____
6. muggy _____
7. tropical _____
8. temperate _____
9. continental _____
10. zone _____
11. polar _____
12. glacier _____
13. climate change _____

Homework

Listen to a weather report. Take notes. Write the weather report and bring it to class.