

IELTS Weather Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: What's the weather like in your country?

Katie: It's quite **changeable** really ... we have periods of time with **clear blue skies** then all of a sudden we'll have **torrential rain**.

Examiner: Which months have the best weather in your country?

Ernst: Well ... I suppose it's a matter of personal taste really ... I like it around the end of October and November ... I'm not fond of the **heatwaves** we often get during the summer ... it's not **freezing cold** during these months and we still get lots of **sunny spells**.

Examiner: Does it bother you much when it rains?

Junko: It depends ... if I **get caught in the rain** and I **get drenched** I don't like it ... but I'm a gardener so **a drop of rain** is good for my plants.

Part 2-style task

Describe a time when you experienced extreme weather conditions. You should say

- when this was
- where you were
- what the weather was like

and say how you felt about the experience.

I was studying English in a language school a few years ago ... we were in Cornwall in the UK ... we'd been enjoying lovely sunny days ... **not a cloud in the sky** ... when all of a sudden there was **a change in the weather** ... we were in town walking around the shops when it started **to pour down** ... I'd never seen such **heavy rain** before ... within about 10 minutes the roads were full of water ... I think they call it a **flash flood** ... it was like being in the middle of a **tropical storm** ... the water was almost up to my knees ... the **weather forecast** hadn't predicted it so everyone was taken by surprise ... I'm not sure you could call it 'extreme' weather as a few hours later it started **to clear up** ... **the sun came out** and slowly the water level went down ... but a lot of people's houses were flooded so it would have been extreme for them ... I found it all quite exciting ... in my country we generally have a very **mild climate** and don't often get floods like this so it was quite an experience for me.

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Do you think the weather affects how people feel?

Tierre: Absolutely ... yes ... I don't mind the occasional **cold spell** but I think the winter months can make you feel down. I hate having to leave the house in the winter ... there's often a **thick fog** every morning and we sometimes get **bitterly cold** winds ... the winter certainly makes me feel a little depressed ... though having said that ... it's always nice to see the town covered in a **blanket of snow**.

Examiner: Do you think the weather is changing due to global warming?

Ceri: I don't know if it's due to global warming or not but the weather in my country is certainly changing ... we've been getting quite **mild winters** lately ... the temperatures are sometimes **below freezing** but only occasionally ... and then during the summer it can get **boiling hot** with a lot of older people even suffering from **heatstroke**.

Examiner: In which ways are weather forecasts useful?

Sinita: Well ... if you're planning a trip or going on holiday it's important to know whether you'll need to **dress up warm** or take an umbrella ... farmers need to know what the **long-range forecast** is so they can plan their work ... I suppose people who organise outside events need to know as well in case things get **rained off**.

Definitions

- **to be below freezing**: below zero degrees Celsius
- **bitterly cold**: very cold and unpleasant
- **a blanket of snow**: a complete covering of snow
- **boiling hot**: very hot (informal)

- **changeable**: weather that often changes
- **a change in the weather**: when weather conditions change
- **clear blue skies**: a sky without clouds
- **to clear up**: when clouds or rain disappear
- **to come out (the sun)**: when the sun appears out of a cloudy sky
- **a cold spell**: a short period of cold weather
- **to dress up warm**: to wear warm clothes to protect yourself against wintry conditions
- **a drop of rain**: a little bit of rain
- **a flash flood**: a sudden and severe flood
- **freezing cold**: very cold (informal)
- **to get caught in the rain**: to be outside when it rains unexpectedly
- **to get drenched**: to get very wet
- **heatstroke**: a serious condition caused by being too long in hot weather
- **a heatwave**: a period of very hot weather
- **heavy rain**: intense rainfall
- **long-range forecast**: the weather forecast for several days or weeks ahead
- **mild climate**: a climate without extreme weather conditions
- **mild winter**: a winter that isn't particularly cold
- **not a cloud in the sky**: see 'clear blue skies' above
- **to pour down**: to rain heavily
- **to be rained off**: to be cancelled or postponed due to poor weather
- **sunny spells**: short periods of sunny weather
- **thick fog**: a dense fog that makes visibility very poor
- **torrential rain**: see 'heavy rain' above
- **tropical storm**: a storm typical of ones that you find in tropical climates

- **weather forecast:** a TV/radio programme or section in a newspaper/magazine which predicts weather conditions

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary. Weather

Temperatures:

- **boiling hot:** an expression to describe a very hot weather. *The last summer was boiling hot, the average temperature reached 40 degrees!*
- **hot**
- **mild:** warm and pleasant. *The weather in my country is mild in spring.*
- **warm**
- **chilly:** cold. *It's chilly today, so I think you should wear a coat.*
- **freezing cold:** very cold. *I wanted to go ice skating on the New Year day, but it was freezing cold and I decided to stay home.*
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- **degrees Celsius:** used to measure the temperature. *In the autumn, the average temperature here is 15 degrees Celsius*
- **to go below zero:** to become negative (about temperatures). *The temperature often goes below zero in the winter.*

Cloudy weather:

- **gloomy:** weather with dark clouds and dull light. *Personally, I don't like gloomy weather. It makes me feel depressed.*
- **clear:** without clouds. *I adore clear weather, when there are no clouds on the sky.*
- **to clear up:** when clouds and rain disappear. *After a long rain, it finally cleared up.*

Rainy weather:

- **to be drenched (to the skin):** to be completely soaked with water. *I forgot to take an umbrella and was drenched in the rain.*
- **gentle rain:** light rain.
- **drizzle:** a light rain that falls in very small drops. *It often drizzles in the morning.*
- **downpour:** a heavy fall of rain. *What a downpour! We are drenched to the skin.*
- **to pour down:** to rain heavily. *I like rainy weather. When it pours down, we sit at home with my family, talk and drink hot tea.*
- **humid:** containing a high amount of water. *In my country the climate is generally cold and humid, especially in the north.*

Snowy weather:

- **snow-covered:** covered with snow.*In the winter my family and I go skiing to the snow-covered hills of Switzerland.*
- **heavy snow:** when a lot of snow falls.*Children went to school in spite of the heavy snow.*
- **frosty:** cold.*Continental climate implies hot summers and frosty winters.*
- **snowstorm:** large amounts of wind and snow.*I don't like winters because of frequent snowstorms.*
- **hail:** when small balls of ice (hailstones) fall from the sky.*After the hail, we found hailstones that were the size of golf balls!*

Windy weather:

- **high wind = strong wind.***In the autumn strong winds are quite frequent.*
- **breeze:** a nice gentle wind.*I don't usually like windy weather, but a light breeze from the ocean makes me happy.*
- **wind chill factor:** when the wind makes the air feel colder than the real temperature.*In my hometown it's very windy in the winter. And though the temperature rarely goes below zero, with wind chill factor it feels like minus 10!*

Sunny weather:

- **sunshine:** the heat and light of the sun.*I love summertime because of the long days and bright sunshine.*
- **dry:** with no rain.*Summers in Turkey are often hot and dry.*
- **heat stroke (sun stroke):** a serious heat illness because of being too long in hot weather.*It's often boiling hot in my city in the summer and a lot of people suffer from heat stroke.*

Other vocabulary:

- **a spell of good weather:** a period of good weather. You can use other adjectives instead of "good" to describe weather.*After a three-day spell of rainy weather, there was a spell of sunny weather.*
- **changeable weather:** weather that often changes.*In my country the weather is very changeable, periods of hot weather can be followed by heavy rains or even snowstorms!*
- **mild climate:** a climate without extreme weather conditions.

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- **smog:** a cloud of pollution. *My town is so polluted that I don't see stars at night because of thick smog!*
- **forecast:** a prediction of how the weather will change. *Although the forecasts predicted a mild winter, the January was freezing cold.*