GOLD experience 2ND EDITION B2+ Pre-Advanced

Name: _____

Class: _____

UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST A

# READING

**You are going to read four extracts from holidaymakers in a magazine article about the effect of weather on holiday experiences. For questions 11–20, choose from the holidaymakers A–D. The holidaymakers may be chosen more than once.**

Which holidaymaker(s):

**11** hadn't considered the practical implications of the weather for travelling? ....

**12** wanted to impress other people after the holiday? ....

**13** had made good preparations for the weather conditions? ....

**14** continued to be affected by the experience after the end of the holiday? ....

**15** used the wrong product for the weather conditions? ....

**16** learned to appreciate other people's determination? ....

**17** appreciated returning home? ....

**18** was pleased the weather lived up to expectations? ....

**19** had never holidayed at this time of year before? ....

**20** experienced unusual weather conditions for the place visited? ....

| | 20 |
|---|---|

| Total: | | 50 |
|---|---|---|

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST A

# How the weather can affect our holidays. We look at four experiences.

### A Paul and Anna

When asked what can make a holiday, there's a chance people will mention the weather. And that is certainly what tempted sun lovers Paul and Anna from the UK to book a long weekend in Malta. Admittedly they weren't looking for blazing sunshine – it was only the middle of February – but they were expecting warm, dry conditions in which to explore the small, historic capital – as opposed to the snow of their usual winter holiday. The weather in the UK had been cold with a forecast of heavy snow and the couple smugly predicted to their friends that while the Brits were wrapping up in thick coats, they would be wandering around Valletta in light jackets. How wrong they were. What greeted them on their first morning in Malta was driving rain, very cold temperatures, and high winds. And it didn't stop. Apparently, it was the heaviest rainfall for ten years. Within an hour, water covered the hotel grounds and was running in the narrow city streets like small rivers. Undeterred, Paul and Anna battled through the rain to try to see some of the landmarks, but got completely soaked. On return to the UK, instead of feeling refreshed by their break, they both came down with colds.

### B Olly and Helen Barker

You can have too much of a good thing on holiday sometimes, and this was definitely the case for the Barker family a few Decembers ago. They decided for the first time, to go away for winter and opted for a remote log cabin in the middle of Sweden. Their intention was to escape the usual boring winter at home, and they imagined themselves having lots of peace and quiet, afforded by a white landscape of snow as far as the eye could see. The dream, however, didn't include the downside of getting around in snowy conditions. Arriving in Sweden, they found themselves driving in a blizzard at night along a deserted motorway, in a car badly prepared for icy roads. It was a scary journey and Olly Barker later confessed to nearly losing control of the car several times. When they got to their dream cabin, excessive snow, and a fear of using their car, meant that they had to rely on one small local shop for food. It was almost a relief to get back to the UK, following another nightmare journey back to the airport.

### C Kevin Lang

Weather can ruin a holiday in many ways, and sometimes it's our own fault for ignoring the dangers of conditions we are unfamiliar with. Kevin Lang went on a package holiday to Spain looking for the sun – his previous June holiday having been marred by wind and rain. He had his wish and was ecstatic to find temperatures high and no clouds to mask the sunshine. Determined to waste no time in getting the tan he had bragged about going home with, he staked out his sun bed on the beach, and after liberally applying sun cream, lay down with a good book and relaxed. Kevin, however, was so keen to get the best tan possible that he had gone for a low-factor cream and failed to reapply it as the morning progressed. The inevitable happened and Kevin suffered severe sunburn on his back and shoulders, the result of which was that he was forced to spend the majority of his holiday in the comparative darkness of his room in severe discomfort. Sadly, he did not return with a tan but a red face when he had to explain what had happened!

### D Francesca and Julietta

The reputation of the UK's weather is mainly one of unreliability. Francesca and Julietta were well aware of that before making plans to come to the UK last summer with the intention of attending some of the biggest and best music festivals in the world. They had watched the highlights of previous festivals online and been amazed at how fans persevered through the mud at Glastonbury to stay and enjoy the acts. However, this knowledge had still not prepared them for how badly continuous rain and fields of mud can affect you. They had equipped themselves well with wet weather gear but in last year's deluge they could only remain positive for so long. After one day trudging through the mud and one night of sleeping in a tent that was nearly washed away, they gave up and sadly cut short their holiday, with new respect for those hardened fans who remained and saw out the whole weekend.

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