

The weather & natural phenomena

Task 1. BAD WEATHER.

Use your dictionary to check the meanings of the nouns and adjectives in bold in the text, then use the words in the box to complete the text.

mist	•	frost	•	sleet	•	rain	•	hail	•	wind	•	fog
smog	•	snow	•	blizzard	•	lightning	•	thunder				

Listen to the **pouring** (1)_____ outside, and the **roar** of the (2)_____ as it blows through the trees. Listen to the **clatter** of **icy** (3)_____ on the window and the **crashing** of the (4)_____, while (5)_____ flashes across the sky. See the thick, grey (6)_____ and the thin, grey, wet (7)_____. Smell the dirty, **bitter**, yellow-grey (8)_____ in the city. Feel the **crunch** of (9)_____ under your feet as you walk on the icy grass, and shake the **freezing**, wet (10)_____ and (11)_____ from your hair as the **howling** (12)_____ turns the world to white.

Task 2. EXTREME WEATHER AND NATURAL PHENOMENA

Look at the words below and decide which definition, A, B or C, best describes each one. Then check your answers in your dictionary.

1. hurricane

- (A) a storm over high mountains, usually accompanied by snow.
- (B) a tropical storm with strong winds and rain.
- (C) a very quick, but very heavy, rain shower.

2. tornado

- (A) a long, heavy snow shower, accompanied by strong winds.
- (B) a long period when there is no rain and when the land is dry.
- (C) a violent storm with a whirlwind.

3. volcano

- (A) a violent shaking of the earth's surface.
- (B) a strong wind caused by a drop in air pressure.
- (C) a mountain with a hole in the top through which lava, ash and gas can come out.

4. drought

- (A) a storm, usually without rain, which happens in hot countries.
- (B) a very long period of rain.
- (C) a long period when there is no rain and when the land is dry.

5. flood

- (A) a large amount of water over land which is usually dry.
- (B) a large area of dry land which should usually be wet (e.g., a dry lake).
- (C) a lake or river which has been poisoned by pollution.

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6. earthquake

- (A) a long, heavy snow shower, accompanied by strong winds.
- (B) a shaking of the earth caused by, for example, volcanic activity.
- (C) a large area of dry land which should usually be wet.

7. tsunami

- (A) a tropical storm with strong winds and rain.
- (B) a huge wave in the sea, caused by an underwater earthquake.
- (C) a long period when there is no rain and when the land is dry.

Task 3. WEATHER WORD FORMS

Complete the table below to show the verbs and adjectives which we use for the nouns in the left-hand column.

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE
rain sun storm snow wind		

Task 4. IDIOMS, COLLOQUIALISMS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS

Replace the words and expressions in **bold** with a suitable word or expression from the box.

under a cloud • bucketing down • weather • boiling • steals my thunder
every cloud has a silver lining • on cloud nine • storm in a teacup
under the weather • cats and dogs • downpour • heavy weather of it

1. It's raining **a lot**.
2. It's **pouring with rain**.
3. It's **very hot** in our office at the moment.
4. We could ask him to sort out the invoices, but he'll make it **unnecessarily difficult and complicated**.
5. Jan's feeling **unwell**.
6. There was a sudden **heavy fall of rain** and all the spectators ran inside.
7. I don't know if we can **survive** this crisis without any extra cash (→ cash, def 1).
8. However gloomy things may seem, **there is always some aspect which is good**.
9. They were **very happy** when they won the lottery.
10. Ben was **under suspicion** for a long time after the thefts were discovered.
11. Whenever I have a great idea, Penny **spoils it by doing it first and getting all the credit**.
12. Sarah thought it was important, but in fact it was **a lot of fuss about something which was very trivial**.