

15 Weather conditions

A Normal weather

Word	Example	Meaning
pour (with rain)	<i>It's pouring (with rain) outside!</i>	rain a lot
shower	<i>We had a heavy shower this morning.</i>	rain for a short period of time, which can be heavy (= a lot) or light (= a little)
rainfall	<i>Rainfall is low in the summer.</i>	the total amount of rain in a place over a period of time
the cold	<i>I hate the cold.</i>	cold weather
freezing	<i>It was freezing (cold) yesterday.</i>	very cold
thunder and lightning	<i>We had a lot of thunder and lightning during the storm.</i>	a loud noise in the sky when there is a storm, and then a sudden bright light in the sky
sunshine	<i>We sat outside in the sunshine.</i>	the light and heat from the sun
fog	<i>There was thick fog on the motorway this morning.</i>	Fog is cloud close to the ground which is difficult to see through. Thick fog is very difficult to see through. foggy <i>adj</i>
mild	<i>This has been a very mild winter.</i>	not very cold, and therefore pleasant
horrible	<i>The weather has been horrible this week.</i>	very bad or unpleasant SYN dreadful, awful, terrible

1 Tick the wet weather conditions.

► rainfall ☒ sunshine ☐ foggy ☐ pouring ☐ cloudy ☐ shower ☐ freezing ☐ mild ☐

2 Match 1–6 with a–g.

- don't like c
- | | | |
|------------|-------|--------------|
| 1 thick | | a weather |
| 2 a heavy | | b with rain |
| 3 horrible | | c the cold ✓ |
| 4 freezing | | d cold |
| 5 a mild | | e shower |
| 6 pour | | f fog |
| | | g day |

3 Complete the words in the texts.

- When I woke up it was quite cloudy but ► mild, for the time of year. Then on the way to work, it suddenly got very dark and we had some t..... and I....., and it started p..... with r..... I got really wet.
- Yesterday was fantastic. It was incredibly hot, and we had about ten hours of s.....
- We've had d..... weather this week. It's been so f..... in the morning that you could hardly see, followed by heavy s..... almost every day, and f..... cold as well.

4 ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or talk to another student.

- When do you get the heaviest rainfall?
- Do you get a lot of sunshine? If so, when?
- Is spring generally cold or mild?
- Do you get much fog? If so, when?
- Is it often freezing cold? If so, when? And do you like the cold?



TEST YOURSELF

B Extreme weather



These natural disasters occur quite regularly in certain parts of the world.

Hurricane¹: a sudden and violent storm with very strong winds, which often destroys buildings and brings down branches and trees.

Flood²: too much water, often the result of heavy rain, which floods the land and damages roads, bridges, buildings, etc.

Tidal wave³: a very large ocean wave, often caused by an extreme storm or earthquake, which destroys things when it reaches land.

Drought⁴: a long period with no rain. Crops die, and people may starve to death.

GLOSSARY

disaster	sth very bad that happens causing harm or death
occur	happen
regularly	If sth happens regularly , it happens again and again with the same amount of time in between.
sudden	happening very quickly suddenly <i>adv</i>
violent	very strong and usually causing damage
destroy	break sth completely so it cannot be used again
	destruction <i>n</i>
branch	one of the parts of a tree that grow out from the thick main part
damage	break or harm sth damage <i>n</i>
extreme	very great or strong
earthquake	a sudden strong movement of the ground, which often opens up
crops	plants that are grown for food, e.g. <i>rice, potatoes</i>
starve (to death)	die because you do not have enough food to eat

- 5 Is the pronunciation of the underlined sounds the same or different? Write S or D.
Use the **app** to help you. Practise saying the words.

► flood / moon

D

1 crop / occur

4 violent / tidal

7 damage / branch

2 occur / earthquake

5 drought / bought

8 disaster / regularly

3 disaster / starve

6 drought / out

9 flood / destruction

- 6 Match 1–5 with a–f.

► disaster

d

1 flood

a a long period of very dry weather

2 tidal wave

b sudden movement of the ground

3 drought

c very strong winds

4 earthquake

d a very bad thing that causes harm or death ✓

5 hurricane

e a very large movement in the ocean

f become filled or covered with water

- 7 Complete the texts.

► When the tidal wave reached land, it was over ten metres high.

1 48 hours of heavy rain has brought more _____ to the south-west of England. Many roads have been badly _____ and winds have also brought down _____ and entire trees. Two bridges have been completely _____ and will need to be rebuilt.

2 With no rain for months, the _____ in Ethiopia is the worst for ten years. Food is in short supply because most of the _____ have died, and now tens of thousands of people are _____ and could die unless help arrives very soon. It is one of the worst natural _____ in living memory.

3 We are getting reports of a violent earthquake in Western China. It _____ without warning, has caused a huge amount of _____ and has completely _____ whole villages.

4 California is experiencing more _____ weather conditions. After the recent floods, a _____ storm is now reaching the west coast of the state. It is accompanied by winds of over 100mph. Weather experts say that these _____ are now occurring _____: at least one a year over the past ten years.



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