



THE BRITISH AND THE WEATHER

If you _____ to Britain, you'll have noticed that British people love to talk about the weather. By the end of their life the average British person will have spent six months discussing it. A recent survey found that a quarter of the population _____ the weather as a conversation starter and 70 per cent of people _____ the weather every day. Recently it _____ even more popular as a conversation topic. This is because the weather in Britain _____ more extreme. In 2013 the country _____ the coldest spring in 50 years, and 2012 was the wettest year since records began. But in reality this spell of 'severe' weather is nothing compared to the droughts, torrential rain, and devastating storms experienced in other parts of the world. Compared to other countries the British weather is still quite mild. Some people say this is why we love talking about it. The weather _____ a safe topic of conversation, perfect for the famously reserved British.

But whatever the reason, one thing is certain – this national obsession with weather shapes our everyday lives and _____ a huge social impact, influencing the country's economy and its politics. In 2011 the British Chancellor George Osborne _____ the weather for the country's disappointing economic performance because the winter of 2010 _____ the coldest and snowiest in decades. He wasn't the first politician to blame the weather. The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown had also used the cold weather as an excuse when the economy _____ well. Rain has also had an effect. In 2012 heavy rain contributed to the very slow growth of the British economy. People _____ going out to buy things in shops, eat in restaurants or socialize in pubs and cafés. Instead they stayed at home and kept their money in their pockets.

But the role of weather in British politics isn't confined to the economy. British elections are almost always held in the spring or the summer. This is because politicians believe

people are more likely to come out to vote if the weather is good.

Some experts say that the weather is why the UK _____ a revolution. Britain's mild weather means the country _____ from the extreme heat or extreme cold, which can often cause food shortages which, in turn, often lead to rebellion.

The British weather _____ British culture and it's a constant theme in both literature and art. Many of the great British artists, such as Turner and Constable, _____ inspiration in Britain's weather. It _____ in many famous British plays, books and poems, and features heavily in the work of the country's most famous writer – William Shakespeare.

In fact the weather has even had a huge impact on our language and there are lots of weather idioms in English. If you say you are 'under the weather', it means you're ill, and if you're 'snowed under', you're busy. If you 'weather the storm', it _____ you survive something, and if you're 'right as rain', you're feeling fine. Come rain or shine the British _____ something to say about the weather. It's _____ part of our daily lives and _____ how we are, how we live, and how we express ourselves.

Look up in the script examples of:

1. Characteristic behaviour
2. Action which happened at a non-specified moment in the past
3. An action of people who are no longer alive
4. Action that started in the past and continues in the present
5. A true fact from the present
6. A present action with a state verb
7. A long term situation
8. A recent action
9. Action which was in progress at a stated time in the past
10. A past action which happened in a period that is not over
11. A daily routine action
12. A changing or developing situation
13. A repeated action in the present
14. An action which happened at a specified moment in the past
15. An action which happened before another action in the past or before a stated time in the past
16. A repeated action in the past

