

3 Climate

Aims: Spelling words correctly | Understanding the sequence of events
Following a conversation | Labelling a diagram | Completing notes
Classifying

Part 1: Vocabulary



1 Match the pictures 1–6 above with the words a–f.

a a blizzard _____	c a drought _____	e lightning _____
b a flood _____	d a hurricane _____	f a heat wave _____

Exam tip: In the IELTS Listening exam, you are expected to recognise and be able to spell a variety of non-technical words. If you spell a word incorrectly, your answer will be considered incorrect. Spelling abstract nouns is easier if you know some common endings, for example *-ity*, *-tion*, *-ment*, *-ness*.



14

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Listen and write the words 1–9. First you will hear the word and then you will hear the word in a sentence.

1 _____

4 _____

7 _____

2 _____

5 _____

8 _____

3 _____

6 _____

9 _____

3 Complete the sentences 1–8 with the words a–h to form common weather collocations. You can use one word more than once.

a clear
b flash

c heavy
d high

e light
f scorching

g strong
h thick

- 1 There is a chance of _____ / _____ rain in the morning, so take an umbrella with you.
- 2 There are _____ winds on the coast, so be very careful if walking near the cliffs.
- 3 There have been _____ floods in the south of the country and many people have had to evacuate their homes at short notice.
- 4 The north has been affected by _____ snow, and many people are snowed in at home.
- 5 Today will be sunny with _____ blue skies.
- 6 There is _____ fog in the west and driving might be dangerous.
- 7 There will be _____ temperatures in the afternoon today, so make sure you drink plenty of water.
- 8 We advise people not to take their children out in the _____ heat.

4 Underline the odd one out in the groups of words 1–4 below and say why it is different.

Example: cool / hot / warm / balmy / rainy

'Rainy' is different: it does not describe temperature.

- 1 precipitation / moisture / humidity / atmosphere _____
- 2 global warming / climate change / greenhouse effect / ozone layer _____
- 3 tidal wave / hurricane / cyclone / gale _____
- 4 fog / haze / mist / drizzle _____

5 In the IELTS Listening exam you need to understand the sequence (or order) of ideas and/or events. Draw a table like the one below and put the sequencing words and phrases in the correct group. Some can go into more than one group.

during	initially	simultaneously
eventually	moving on to	the next phase/step
finally	next	ultimately
former	previously	when
in the end	prior	

Before	After	At the same time	Transition from one stage to another

6 Complete the passage with the words a–h.

a during	e simultaneously
b initially	f the next step
c then	g ultimately
d prior	h when

Preparing for a Heat Wave

Make sure you are always prepared for any kind of extreme weather [1] _____ to it occurring. You can do this by checking the weather forecast regularly. Heat waves can often be predicted days and even weeks in advance. Heat waves are [2] _____ seen as fun, a chance to get outside in the sun, and a hazard, which can cause illness. Make sure you drink plenty of water [3] _____ this time, otherwise you may become dehydrated. [4] _____ you feel hot, try to find some shade.

It is also important to watch for signs of heatstroke. A person may [5] _____ become slow and lethargic, and [6] _____ become confused or incoherent. If you see these second symptoms, get the person into the shade immediately and give them water. If the symptoms do not go away instantly, [7] _____ would be to call an ambulance. If left untreated, heatstroke can [8] _____ lead to death.

7 Underline the correct words in the sentences 1–6.

- 1 Many people do not believe that pollution has disastrous long term effects on the environment, but *eventually* / *finally* they will have to accept the overwhelming evidence.
- 2 There was no *former* / *prior* warning of the storm; it took everyone in the village by surprise.
- 3 I was the only person standing under the large tree *during* / *when* the rain came so I was lucky and didn't get wet.
- 4 Here is the weather forecast for today. *Initially* / *Previously* it will be sunny, but cloud will develop later in the afternoon.
- 5 If a hurricane strikes, the first thing to do is get inside. *Next* / *The next step* you should shut all the windows and doors.
- 6 The effects of global warming will be seen in the future, *eventually* / *ultimately* leading to a dramatic rise in sea levels and *eventually* / *ultimately* flooding vast areas of low lying land.

Part 2: Practice exercises



CD1

1 In Section 3 of the IELTS Listening exam, you will hear up to four speakers and it is important to recognise the speakers.

You are going to hear a conversation with four speakers: John, Steven, Linda and Joanne. Listen and write how many times you hear each speaker. Two have been done for you.

John 3Linda 2Steven Joanne 

Exam information: Classification (1)

In the IELTS Listening exam, you may have to decide which category or group items belong to. The categories are usually lettered (A, B, C, etc.) and the items are numbered (1, 2, 3). Your answer is usually a letter.

2 Match the places 1–6 with the categories a, b or c.

a Continent

1 Paris _____

b Country

2 Asia _____

3 Brazil _____

4 Europe _____

c City

5 Vietnam _____

6 Tokyo _____

Exam tip: Before you listen, think how the categories and items might be related, and try to think of other words that express these categories and items. One group, either the items or the categories, will probably be paraphrased.



CD1

3 You are going to hear a group of students talking about their Natural Earth presentation. Listen and match the tasks 1–5 with the person who will do them (a–c).

Natural Earth presentation: Who is doing which tasks?

a Alice

1 organise the research _____

b Karl

2 make the PowerPoint presentation _____

c Jenny

3 source cloud images _____

4 write cue cards _____

5 present the conclusion _____

i**Exam information: Labelling a diagram (1)**

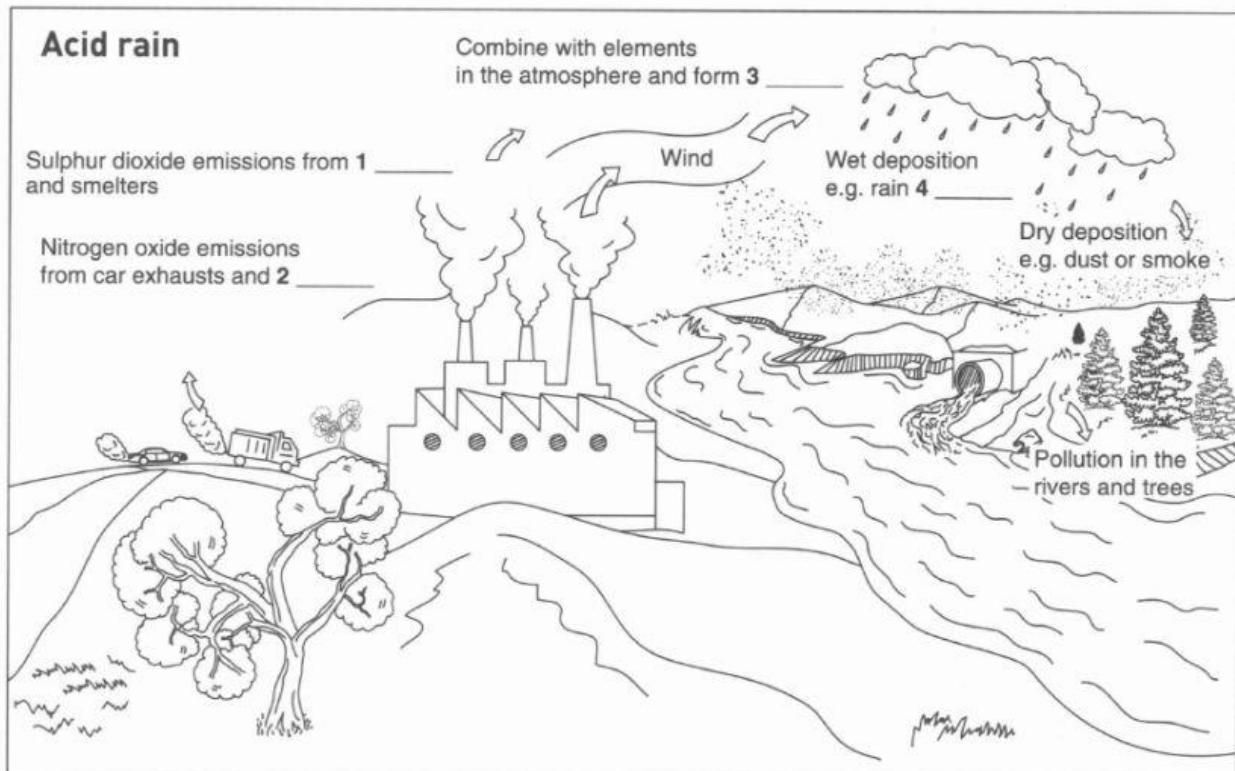
In the IELTS Listening exam, you may have to label a diagram which describes a process. This question type can be found in any section of the exam.

You have to complete the diagram by writing the information yourself or choosing the answer from a list of options. You will need to study the diagram before you listen to understand the order of events. The information you need in order to answer the questions is in the same order as it is on the recording.

Exam tip: You may know the answers due to your general knowledge, but your answers cannot depend on that: you will need to listen for what the speakers say to identify the answer.

4 Look at the diagram which shows how acid rain is formed. Use the clues in the diagram and put the events a-d in the order they occur.

- a The wind carries the mixture of pollutants high into the atmosphere.
- b These fall in wet and dry forms.
- c Polluting emissions from cities enter the atmosphere.
- d The wet form runs into rivers, causing more pollution.



Exam tip: If you have to label a diagram, always write the words you hear on the recording; do not use your own words.

17
CD1

5 You are going to hear two students discussing an assignment. Listen and complete the diagram in Exercise 4. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.



Exam information: Note completion (1)

In the IELTS Listening exam, you may have to complete notes. This question type can be found in any section of the exam. You will need to think about the topic and look at the notes carefully to decide what kind of word fits grammatically in each space.

6 Read the notes and write what kind of word completes each space grammatically: a noun, a verb or a quantity/amount?

Lightning Safety: Presentation Plan

Part 1: Planning for lightning

- Important to be prepared
- Go inside before it 1 _____

Part 2: If inside

- Stay away from water, doors, windows, and telephones
- Turn off 2 _____

Part 3: If outside

- Avoid trees, open spaces, and metal objects
- If the lightning comes near you, 3 _____ and cover your ears

Part 4: If someone gets hit

- Get help from a 4 _____
- Call an ambulance
- Don't worry: 5 _____ of lightning victims survive!

Think of words related to the topic of 'lightning and safety' that could complete the notes above.

18
CD1

7 You are going to hear two students talking about a project. Listen and complete the notes in Exercise 6 above. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

Part 3: Exam practice

SECTION 3 QUESTIONS 1–3

19
CD1

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Project suggestions: pros and cons

Localised weather conditions

Problem: Not enough time for 1 _____

Seasons

Problem: Too 2 _____

Extreme weather conditions

Advantage: Easier to 3 _____ into different sections, more interesting

QUESTIONS 4–7

19
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Who will cover the following weather conditions?

- A** Alex
- B** Emma
- C** Tom
- D** None of them

Write the correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C** or **D** next to questions 4–7.

- 4** blizzards _____
- 5** floods _____
- 6** drought _____
- 7** cyclones _____

QUESTIONS 8–10

Complete the diagram below. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

