

6.2 Controlling the weather?

Vocabulary climate and extreme weather

1 Match words 1–6 to words a–f. Which three collocations describe the effects of extreme weather events?

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1 crop | a temperatures |
| 2 climate | b change |
| 3 global | c damage |
| 4 destroyed | d warming |
| 5 high | e shortages |
| 6 water | f housing |

2 Write the compound nouns in exercise 1 next to the newspaper headlines.

1 **FARMERS REPORT POOR QUALITY OF POTATOES IN FIELDS**

crop damage

2 **EXPERTS SAY WORLD WILL GET ONE DEGREE HOTTER EVERY TWENTY YEARS**

3 **MORE RAIN IN DESERTS, LESS RAIN IN TROPICS, SAY EXPERTS**

4 **NOTHING TO DRINK OR WASH WITH IN SOME AREAS**

5 **FORTY DEGREES ON THE COAST IN HOT SUMMER**

6 **THOUSANDS LOSE HOMES AFTER DISASTER**

3 Complete the text with words from the box. Use plural forms if necessary.

drought fire flood heatwave landslide storm
rainfall wind



In the past, nobody paid any attention if we had high temperatures in April. We just enjoyed the unexpected ¹ *heatwave* and went to the beach. Nowadays, however, we worry that it is a sign of climate change. The question, of course, is whether we should be worried. Extreme weather in 2013 and 2014 suggests we really should.

In late 2013 and early 2014, California experienced so little rain and was so dry that it had its worst ² _____ ever. In the same period, the UK had its wettest period in recent history. Heavy and continuous ³ _____ resulted in terrible ⁴ _____ because rivers were so high that the water came into towns. Strong ⁵ _____ came in from the Atlantic Ocean and destroyed buildings.

The fourth worst tropical ⁶ _____ in history destroyed villages and towns in the Philippines in November 2013. The powerful winds and heavy rain killed hundreds. In Australia, it was so hot and dry that ⁷ _____ started in the forests and were out of control for days. And in Washington state in the US, many died when, after weeks of heavy rain, a ⁸ _____ came down a mountain, carrying rocks and soil and destroying all the buildings in its path. It really does seem that the world's weather is changing.

Grammar present perfect simple and continuous

4 Put the words in order to make statements and questions.

- for / been / ages / waiting / I've / here .
I've been waiting here for ages.
- film / have / yet / you / the / seen ?
- hasn't / Sally / been / long / there / living .
- they / lunch / had / 've / already .
- stopped / has / yet / it / raining ?
- long / been / how / there / have / sitting / you ?

→ **STUDY TIP** Remember that in English, to make a question the auxiliary verb changes place with the subject, so *I've broken* becomes *Have you broken ...?* and *She's been eating* becomes *Has she been eating ...?*

5a Choose the best reply to each question.

- Why don't you wear that green necklace any more?
a Unfortunately, I've lost it.
b Unfortunately, I've been losing it.
- Where's Jo?
a Outside. She's worked in the garden all day. And she's still out there now.
b Outside. She's been working in the garden all day. And she's still out there now.
- Are you and Louise friends?
a Yes. We've known each other for ages.
b Yes. We've been knowing each other for ages.
- Sarah seems happier these days. Why's that?
a Well, she's done better at school recently. I hope it continues.
b Well, she's been doing better at school recently. I hope it continues.
- Do you know Carl well?
a Not really. I've only met him twice.
b Not really. I've only been meeting him twice.
- I haven't seen Ana at the sports centre for ages. What has she been doing?
a Actually, she's broken her arm.
b Actually, she's been breaking her arm.

b 6.2 Listen and check.

- 6 Complete the interview with an American hurricane expert with the present perfect simple or continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect continuous whenever possible.

How do you track or follow a hurricane?

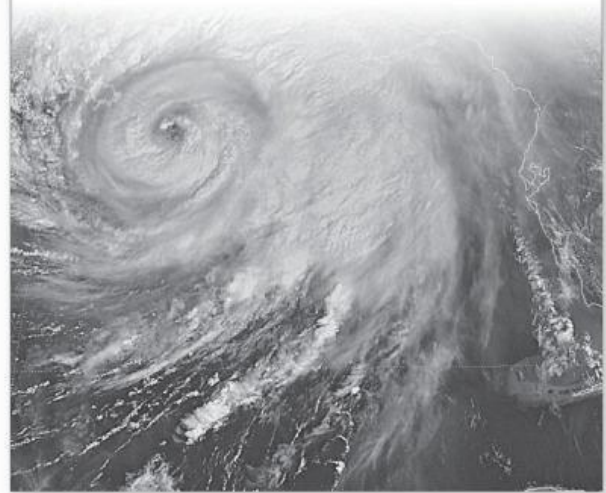
Well, we ¹ *have been using* (use) satellites to track hurricanes for many years now. In the last year, weather satellites ² _____ (help) us to find and follow the progress of a number of hurricanes. Fortunately, all of these hurricanes ³ _____ (leave) our region and are no longer dangerous.

Do you only use satellites?

Well, no. Since 1965, the US Air Force ⁴ _____ (use) special planes called 'hurricane hunters' to monitor hurricanes. The hurricane hunters ⁵ _____ (become) very good at collecting information about extreme weather conditions.

What do experts do with the information?

Well, over the past few years, we ⁶ _____ (develop) better ways of using the information from planes and satellites. In the last year, we ⁷ _____ (be) able to use very complicated computer models to show possible hurricane movements. In my opinion, our work ⁸ _____ (save) the lives of between fifty and a hundred people in the last six months.



I can ...

	Very well	Quite well	More practice
talk about the climate and extreme weather.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use the present perfect simple and continuous to talk about recent events and changes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>