

Look! It's snowing!

It doesn't often snow here.

G present simple or present continuous? V the weather and seasons P places in London

1 VOCABULARY & LISTENING

the weather and seasons

a Look at the weather forecast for the week and answer the questions.

- 1 What's the maximum temperature? What's the minimum?
- 2 What time of year do you think it is?
- 3 Do you think it's typical weather for London?

WEATHER London

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
18° 10°	19° 10°	19° 11°	21° 12°	20° 10°

b **V** p.159 Vocabulary Bank The weather and dates Do Part 1.

c **5.19** Listen to a travel guide talking about the weather in London. Mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false). Then listen again and say why.

- 1 It's often very hot or very cold.
- 2 The normal temperature in the summer is 22°C.
- 3 It often snows in the winter.
- 4 In spring and autumn the weather changes a lot.
- 5 It's often grey and foggy in the city centre.

d What's the weather like where you live in different seasons?

2 GRAMMAR present simple or present continuous?

a Look at the photos and the messages. Why are Tim and Jane sad?

Mike FRI 07.01

View from my window this morning. **It's** snowing. Hooray! I love winter!



Tim FRI 08.04

Lucky you! I love the snow. **It never** snows here in Valencia. ☺

Jane MON 11.30

We're in Mexico – Cancún – but **it's** raining! ☺

Lizzie MON 17.35

Poor you! **Does it often** rain there in March? I'm walking home, and it's a beautiful evening – the sun's shining. Sorry!



b Read the messages again, and focus on the highlighted verbs. When do we use the present simple? When do we use the present continuous?

c **G** p.132 Grammar Bank 5C

d **C** Communication What do you do? What are you doing now? **A** p.105 **B** p.111 Ask and answer questions.

What to do in London at different times of the year

In spring

Watch (or run!) the London Marathon. One of Europe's biggest marathons takes place in spring every year, usually in April. About 40,000 people, including top runners and celebrities, run 26.2 miles through the city. It's a fantastic atmosphere. You can watch anywhere along the route, but the Tower of London and the finish, near Buckingham Palace, are my favourite places. April in London doesn't always mean good weather – be prepared for sun, showers, and wind!



In summer

Go to the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park. Open from May to September, this is a great place to see Shakespeare and other classics. Come prepared for all types of weather. If it rains – and it can – you can buy plastic raincoats at the theatre. In bad weather they sometimes cancel a performance, but you can use your tickets on a different day. You can buy a picnic or take your own, and you can buy dinner, too (quite expensive!).



3 READING & SPEAKING

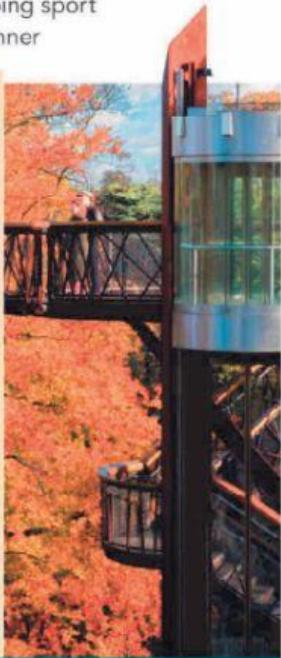
a Read the questions about things to do in London. Then read the online guide and find the answers. Answer with **LM** (London Marathon), **OAT** (Open Air Theatre), **TW** (Treetop Walkway), or **V&A** (Victoria and Albert Museum).

Where can you...?

- 1 learn about nature
- 2 buy food to eat outside
- 3 have a fantastic view
- 4 see beautiful old tables and chairs
- 5 watch what's happening from different places
- 6 buy something to keep you dry
- 7 see famous people doing sport
- 8 have lunch, but not dinner

In autumn

35 Go to the Treetop Walkway at Kew Gardens. This is one of the highlights of Kew, London's botanical gardens. It's open all year round, and it's beautiful in autumn when the trees are changing colour. The Walkway is 18 metres above the ground, and you can see all the gardens and a lot of famous buildings, including Wembley Stadium. You can also see birds and insects very close up, and 45 find out all about the trees around you. But if the weather is very windy, the Walkway sometimes closes.



In winter

Visit the V&A. London is 55 full of wonderful museums, where you can happily spend a cold winter's day. My favourite, which not all tourists know about, 60 is the Victoria and Albert Museum, or V&A. It's the world's top museum for art and design, and has amazing collections of clothes, 65 furniture, jewellery, clocks, and ceramics. Exhibitions include the clothes of fashion designer Alexander McQueen, and the career of 70 David Bowie. It has special activities for children, and a great café open daily until 17.15. Entrance is free, but some exhibitions charge a fee.



b Look back at the guide. Complete the nouns for these adjectives.

- 1 a fantastic atmosphere
- 2 my favourite _____
- 3 good (or bad) _____
- 4 a great _____
- 5 famous _____
- 6 wonderful _____
- 7 amazing _____

c Talk to a partner.

- Which of the four things would you like to do? Why?
- What are good things to do at different times of year where you live?

4 PRONUNCIATION places in London

a **5.21** Place names in London are sometimes difficult for visitors to pronounce and understand. Listen and underline the stressed syllable in the **bold** words.

Bu c cking h am Pa l lace	the Hou s es of Par l ia m ent
Wem b ley Sta d ium	Trafalgar Square
the Tow e r of Lon do n	St Paul's Ca th e d ral
Lei c ester Square	West m inster A b bbey
Pi c cca d illy Cir u s	Co o vent Gar d en

b Listen again and repeat the names.

c **Role-play** with a partner. Imagine you are in a taxi. **A** is the driver, **B** is the passenger. Have a short conversation. Use the phrases below.

A	B
Where do you want to go?	Is it far?
Where are you from?	Can you stop here, please?
Are you on holiday?	How much is it?
Do you like London?	Can I pay by credit card?

Where do you want to go?

Trafalgar Square, please. Is it far?

5 WRITING

a What social media do you use, e.g. Twitter or Facebook? Do your family and friends use the same ones as you?

b **W.115 Writing** Posting on social media Write posts to say what you're doing on holiday.