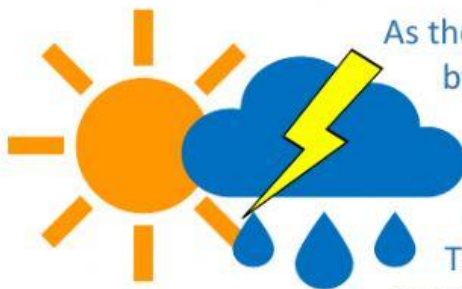


The Changing Weather



I remember once we went on a trip to Australia and we toured in the desert. The first morning we woke up to clear skies, though the temperature was a bit *chilly* and dry. Nevertheless, the weather forecast predicted a storm. We could feel the not so mild *breeze* on our faces, and we thought the weatherman was going to be wrong in his predictions. Therefore, we got in the van and set out *towards* the *interior* of the desert.



As the day went by, the temperature increased and by noon it was boiling hot. There was no shade to hide in and it was an unbearable scorching day. Then suddenly, the sky was *overcast*, and it was pouring. It started to *rain cats and dogs. There was loud thunder and bright lightning. The nearby river flooded, and we had to stop in the middle of the road. We were *terribly* scared. The *severe* heat wave and drought that the desert had been suffering from came to an end in a few minutes. There was a sheer drop of temperature and with light clothes we felt freezing cold. It was a very unpleasant situation. We thought it would last the whole day, but we were wrong again. In the next hour, the sky started to clear up and the rain stopped completely.



We didn't want to *venture further* into the desert, though. We decided to go back to the nearest town, where we didn't mind the *muggy*, sticky weather after all. Once there, we started to think about our home back in Canada. There we have many cold *spells* and *blizzards* in the winter in the North. We



learned that we can't take the weather for granted. It's wild and we can't *tame* it. The only thing we can do is *adapt* ourselves to it, rather than try to change it to our convenience. We must adapt our *holidays* and events to the weather.

*“rain cats and dogs” = rain hard, a big storm

Exercises:

Find words in the text with the same meaning as:

1. Trained
2. Humid
3. Change
4. Snowstorms
5. Cloudy
6. Times
7. Cool
8. More
9. Wind
10. Inside
11. Vacations
12. Very
13. In the direction of
14. Bad
15. Try to go

Use the words to fill in the sentences:

Freezing, lightning, muggy, breeze, drought, flooded, sheer, tame, forecast, chilly

1. She's keeping a _____ tiger as a pet at home.
2. Lying on the beach is perfect way to cool down on _____ day.
3. I'd better put on a sweater, it's a bit _____.
4. There was a mild _____ blowing gently.
5. Our house got _____ during the storm
6. The tower was hit by _____ during the thunderstorm.
7. We couldn't go any further. There was _____ cliff in front of us.
8. The _____ for tomorrow says it will snow.
9. It's _____ outside! Put on a coat and scarf.
10. A severe (very bad) _____ killed all his plants last year.