



Weather Idioms

Exercise 1. Multiple choice.

1. (it's) raining cats and dogs

It's raining cats and dogs, so

- a. watch out for falling animals
- b. make sure you take an umbrella
- c. keep your pets inside

2. a fair-weather friend

You'll find out who your fair-weather friends are when you get

- a. rich and famous
- b. sick and depressed
- c. married and have kids

3. a ray of sunshine

The kids in the hospital had a ray of sunshine in their lives when

- a. some famous footballers visited them
- b. they were taken to sit outside in the sun
- c. the nurses checked their blood pressure

4. have your head in the clouds

William's head is in the clouds. He needs to

- a. take better care of himself
- b. be a bit more realistic
- c. stop thinking he's better than everyone else

5. make hay while the sun shines

I'd better make hay while the sun shines & do some work on my book

- a. while I have a bit of free time
- b. despite having so much else to do
- c. even though I don't feel like writing

6. quick as a flash | quick as a wink | quick as lightning

His boss came into the office and quick as a wink Mark hit a key on his keyboard because he

- a. wanted to show off his keyboard skills
- b. was running short of time
- c. didn't want his boss to see what he was looking at

7. snowed under

I was so snowed under today that I had to

- a. wear extra warm clothes
- b. see a doctor
- c. cancel a meeting

8. under a cloud

If someone is under a cloud, they might

It's Raining cats and dogs!



Head in the clouds



Have unrealistic or impractical ideas.

Lightning fast



Being very fast.

Snowed under



Having too much to do.

- a. take an umbrella in case it rains
- b. try to prove they're innocent
- c. stop and wait until it passes

9. *under the weather*

Tom's been feeling under the weather for a couple of days, so he's

- a. going to see a doctor
- b. going to see a lawyer
- c. going to see a priest

10. *weather a storm*

If you weather a storm, you get through something that could have

- a. helped you
- b. excited you
- c. harmed you

Exercise 2. *Put the correct weather-related idioms into the box in each sentence.*

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A. under the weather; | G. it never rains but it pours; |
| B. rained on his parade; | H. under a cloud; |
| C. every cloud has a silver lining; | I. hot under the collar; |
| D. has her head in the clouds; | J. blows hot and cold; |
| E. storm in a teacup; | K. made heavy weather of it; |
| F. got wind of it; | L. any port in a storm |



1. I only touched his new car & he went crazy. He is over-protective of it & made a real ...
2. He has been ... ever since he was caught cheating in the exam. Everyone looks at him strangely and it will take him a long time before he is trusted again.
3. If you are feeling a bit ..., go and have a walk around the block, get some fresh air and try and calm down a bit.
4. Are you feeling a bit ...? You have been looking a bit tired and ill since you arrived in the office this morning.
5. First the bank sent us that rude letter about our loan, then the house got broken into to, then this morning John lost his job! ...
6. I can never tell what mood she is going to be in. She always ... and you have to be really careful around her.
7. When I lost my job three years ago, I felt so depressed but it is true that ...: I started my own business and have been happier ever since.
8. We have hardly any money. You will have to accept any job they offer you because we need to money desperately. We have to accept ...
9. Your uncle was so happy about his new model car that he had finished but his wife turned round & really ... saying it was just a toy for kids.
10. It was only five miles to the next hostel but we ... of it due to the weight of the packs & took nearly three hours to get there.
11. I never knew about the chance of a new job at all. I only ... from Kathy who had overheard the managers talking at lunch in the staff canteen.
12. Daisy always ... - a real dreamer who finds it difficult to accept the mundane in life. She is a typical teenager!