

Exercise 2

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Read the text and answer the questions.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WEATHER?

You don't often see people in T-shirts and shorts in the snow - especially not in the summer! But in July 2009 eight centimeters of hail fell on parts of New Jersey. Experts say that it was an extremely unusual incident.



This is only one example of some very unusual weather in the U.S. in the recent years. Last winter there wasn't any snow in the northern ski resorts of New England, but people in the southern states of Arizona and New Mexico saw snow for the first time! In Chicago, Illinois where there is usually a lot of snow in the winter, organizers postponed the annual snow sculpting competition because there wasn't any snow at all.

The Pacific Northwest recorded one of the wettest winters in history. In Seattle, Washington, it rained for 26 days! In California cold weather destroyed crops of lemons and oranges. Economists predict that fruit and vegetable prices will be higher next year as a result.

So, what is causing the extreme weather? Some experts say that it's the result of global warming. "We are changing the earth's atmosphere, so we're also changing the climate," says climatologist Tim Rice. "If global warming continues, these unusual weather incidents will become more and more extreme!" Other climatologists don't agree. They say that unusual weather is normal and caused by natural phenomena. "The weather will always be unpredictable," says meteorologist Jan Akken. "That's why it's fun!"

1- What unusual weather event happened in New Jersey?

2- Does it often snow in Arizona and New Mexico?

3- Why did organizers postpone the annual snow sculpting contest in Chicago?

4- How many days did it rain continuously in Seattle?

5- What will happen if global warming continues?
