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Earth, sea and sky

Geography, climate and weather

Geography

1.1 Look at the photographs below. Where do you think the places are?



1.2 Read the description below. It is about one of the places. Put one word from the box into each gap.

flowers
orchards
~~peaks~~
streams

forests
paths
slopes
valleys

Manali is surrounded by towering snow-capped mountain (1) peaks and thick pine (2) Shallow (3) of clear mountain water flow into the Beas River. Around the town the landscape is breath-taking. The gentle wooded (4) of the hillsides are covered with wild (5) and fertile apple (6) Above Manali, travellers can walk along the winding (7) through the narrow (8) and high mountain passes to the Himalayas.

Match the description to one of the photographs.

1.3 Match the adjectives from the box with their opposites.

low
muddy
wide
cultivated

~~deep~~
straight
steep

shallow deep
clear
gentle

narrow
wild
high

winding

1.4 Write two or three sentences about the place in the other photograph. Use words from 1.2 or 1.3.

.....
.....
.....

2.1 Choose the best word to fit each gap in these definitions.

- 1 A ^{river} is bigger than a Both of them are natural but a is manmade. A happens when there is too much water.
- 2 A is bigger than a and in tropical areas is called a When trees are cut down, the wood or is used for furniture, houses etc.
- 3 A is higher than a A has one steep side and is often on the coast. A is a natural hole in the side of a mountain, cliff or hill.
- 4 The is the salty water which covers a large part of the earth's surface. The is very similar in meaning but is used for very large areas of water, e.g. the Pacific. A is completely surrounded by land. When water drops suddenly from a high point to a low point we call it a
- 5 We use for the edges of a river and for the edges of a sea or lake. An area of sand or stones beside the sea or a lake is called a The is where the land meets the sea.
- 6 is on the ground and we grow plants in it. When it is very wet it becomes On the beach or in the desert there is often on the ground. In very dry places there is a lot of blowing in the air.

stream canal
flood river

wood forest
rainforest timber

mountain cliff
hill cave

sea ocean
lake waterfall

banks shores
beach coast

sand soil
dust mud

2.2 Read the email. Choose the correct word (A, B, C or D) for each gap.

Hi Jackie

I'm writing to tell you about my holiday. We hired bicycles and on the first day we cycled beside the Grand Union 1 ^B , which was built in 1793 to carry goods from the Midlands to London. It was very relaxing. The next day we cycled around a 2 ... That took a few hours but there was a small sandy 3 ... and a little 4 ... where you could sit in the shade. We camped there and the next day we hired a boat. The only problem was there was a lot of thick 5 ... at the side of the lake which we got stuck in. We weren't in danger because the water was 6 ... , but there was a risk of not being able to get the boat out. On another day we went for a walk to the top of a 7 ... It wasn't very high but we had a lovely view. We came down the other side and stopped in the village at the bottom for lunch in a really nice café. I'd recommend it. See you soon.

Love Maria

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 A Stream | B Canal | C Flood | D River |
| 2 A sea | B ocean | C lake | D waterfall |
| 3 A banks | B shores | C beach | D coast |
| 4 A wood | B forest | C rainforest | D timber |
| 5 A sand | B soil | C dust | D mud |
| 6 A little | B shallow | C narrow | D gentle |
| 7 A mountain | B cliff | C hill | D cave |



Vocabulary note

Some words can have more than one meaning, and the second meaning can often be idiomatic:
*I've got a **mountain** of work to do.* = a lot of work
*There was a **flood** of applications for the job.* = suddenly a large number of applications

Climate and weather

3.1  Read these sentences about two different climates. Guess which are about picture A and which are about picture B in 1.1. Write A or B next to each one.

- 1 It is always hot and humid. B
- 2 Summers are mild and wet.
- 3 As it's near the Equator, there is little difference in temperature between the warmest and the coolest months.
- 4 Rain falls nearly every day and there is no dry season.
- 5 In winter the temperature drops to below 0°C.
- 6 In the rainforest, the morning of almost every day begins with a clear blue sky.
- 7 The area is often cut off because of snow.
- 8 By mid-afternoon every day there are sudden hard downpours and thunderstorms are common.
- 9 The heavy snowfall in winter attracts skiers and tourists.
- 10 It can rain heavily in July and August during the monsoon.
- 11 The temperature at night is 20°C–25°C but during the day it rises to above 30°C.
- 12 Skies are often cloudy in the mountains, whether it is summer or winter.

3.2 Check your answers and then put the sentences into two paragraphs to make two separate descriptions, keeping the sentences in the same order as in 3.1. Join some of them with *and* and *but*. Use your notebook.

Picture A: Summers are mild and wet. In winter

3.3  2 Listen to a description of the climate in another country. Which part of the world do you think it is?

3.4 Using 3.1–3.3 to help you, write a description of the climate in your country in your notebook.

4.1 COMMON EXPRESSIONS Each of these sentences is about different weather conditions. Write *rain*, *snow/ice*, *sun* or *wind* next to each one.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 I nearly fell over because the path was slippery.
<u>snow/ice</u> | 7 My feet were soaked because I trod in a puddle.
..... |
| 2 There was a strong breeze coming off the sea.
..... | 8 They couldn't get home because of the blizzard.
..... |
| 3 The heatwave went on for weeks. | 9 The gale blew the tree down. |
| 4 We got caught in a shower. | 10 It poured all day. |
| 5 They had fine weather for the match. | 11 The ground was covered in frost. |
| 6 The lake was frozen so we went skating. | 12 The hailstones were as big as golfballs. |

4.2 Underline the words which helped you to decide and write them on a word tree – see pages 2–3.

5 WORD BUILDING Make the weather nouns below into adjectives. Be careful with spelling.

breeze breezy
storm
cloud

wind
rain
dust

sun
fog
ice

Exam practice

READING Part 2

You are going to read a magazine article about a mountain in Africa. Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–F the one which fits each gap. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Exam Tip

In the exam, seven sentences will be removed and the text will be longer. Both vocabulary and grammar help you decide where to put each sentence.

On a clear day Mount Kilimanjaro is visible from Nairobi. However, when the sun is low and the clouds light, the enormous, snow-capped peak appears to be floating in space. 1

Kilimanjaro is 5895m above sea level and is on the equator. 2 They'll start in tropical temperatures, go through milder weather to high alpine desert and then permanently snow-capped summits.

Despite its tremendous altitude, it is possible to get to the top without any technical climbing ability. With its accessible slopes, abundance of porters and relatively mild climate, the trek to the summit is considered a moderately easy climb in mountaineering circles. 3

The ascent is recognised as one of the great walks of the world by the climbers who complete it.

4 They will take home memories of colourful scenery, stunning natural beauty, warm and friendly locals and a unique sense of isolation. This last impression is reinforced when they realise that until more than 100 years ago, nobody had ever climbed this vast volcano.

Ever since Hans Meyer's first ascent in 1889, more and more people have tackled the mountain. 5

Be aware of the scenic variety, remoteness and popularity of each option, but most importantly, be aware of the degree of difficulty. The ascent is a gruelling but wonderful trek with magnificent views, unmatched in Africa. Whichever route you opt for, to make the most of it walk slowly with your eyes open. Then you'll come home with something far more valuable and important than a summit certificate.

- A Those who do so will be rewarded by what they see.
- B As a result of this, trekkers will go through several different climates in the course of only five or six days.
- C Even so, surprisingly few people make it all the way there.
- D This is the most difficult path to follow.
- E If you'd like to join them, it's essential to select the route that is most appropriate for you.
- F At such times, that kind of beauty appears almost supernatural.

SPEAKING Part 2

- 1 Look at the photos in Exercise 1.1 again and think about your answers to these questions.

What can you see in each photograph?

What is different about the two places?

What season do you think it is? What is the weather like?

What would you enjoy about each place? What would you find difficult?

Exam Tip (also see speaking checklist on p. 99)

Compare the two photographs but also be ready to give your own opinions.

- 2 Practise speaking for a minute about one of the photographs. Record yourself and then listen. Try to improve what you said.