Unit 3: Weather, Our Environment and the Natural World

Word Store 3: Weather Reference Chart

Kind	Description	Verbs & Expressions
breeze cloud dew heat wave snow snowfall snowflakes sun sunshine blizzard downpour drizzle fog frost gale hurricane lightning mist rain shower sleet slush smog snowstorm storm thunder / thunderstorm wind	**Good:** bright, dry, fine, hot, mild, scorching, sunny, warm, windy **Bad:** chilly, changeable, cloudy, cold, damp, dark, dull, foggy, freezing, frosty, grey, humid, icy, misty, overcast, showery, stormy, stuffy, unsettled, wet, windy	pour (with rain) pour down bucketing down be drenched / soaked a gentle / light / strong breeze a bit chilly black / dark / grey clouds be bitterly / freezing cold a lovely day thick fog strong gales be boiling hot a light / thin mist heavy / light rain / shower a blue / grey sky a thick smog a cold / hot spell a terrible storm / thunderstorm a break in the weather good / lovely weather awful / bad / terrible weather a strong wind

Exercise 1: Weather Words in Context

Complete each sentence with the most appropriate word or phrase from the **Word Store 3** weather chart.

1. During the prolonged cold _____ we experienced throughout January, temperatures plunged below minus ten degrees.

2. Hopefully the skies will remain fine and _____ so the cricket match can proceed this afternoon without interruption.

3. The morning started overcast and chilly, but the forecaster promises it will become bright and _____ by midday.

4. British spring days can bring such _____ weather: sunshine at breakfast followed by heavy hail an hour later.

5. Dense, thick _____ rolled in off the river, reducing visibility to less than fifty metres on the motorway.

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6. You had better take your waterproof mac because in northern Scotland it pours with _____ almost every afternoon.

7. During the nocturnal gale, a severe _____ brought down telephone poles and tore tiles off our roof.

8. We waited until there was a brief _____ in the rain to rush outside and take down the laundry from the washing line.

9. After a clear, bitterly freezing night, a delicate layer of white _____ covered the lawn like powdered sugar.

10. It was absolutely _____ hot in the city centre yesterday; the tarmac softened and pedestrians sheltered in air-conditioned shops.

Exercise 2: Weather Definitions

Match each definition below with the correct word from the weather chart.

1. A brief, sudden period of heavy rainfall: _____

2. Weather that shifts rapidly between conditions: _____

3. Air that feels uncomfortably warm and moist: _____

4. Pleasant, bright weather without rain: _____

5. A sky completely covered by dark cloud cover: _____

6. Precipitation consisting of snow and rain mixed: _____

7. Mild, comfortable, and not excessively cold: _____

8. Extremely intense, blisteringly high temperature: _____

9. Water droplets suspended in air making it hard to see: _____

10. Temperatures low enough to form ice crystals: _____

11. A toxic combination of smoke, fumes, and fog: _____

12. When rain falls exceptionally heavily, it is pouring or _____ down.

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Exercise 3: British Weather & Idiomatic Language

Fill in the blanks in the text below. The first letter of each missing word has been provided.

The British are renowned worldwide for constantly chatting about the weather. This national habit stems from the fact that weather in the UK is notoriously (1) **c**_____; you genuinely never know what skies the afternoon will bring. A favourite greeting on a pleasant morning is '(2) **L**_____ weather for the time of year!', whereas if relentless drizzle sets in, they will mutter 'Isn't this weather (3) **a**_____?' If grey downpours persist, colleagues sigh that they have endured wet weather for (4) **d**_____ on end. Outdoor events are frequently scheduled '(5) **w**_____ permitting'. British postcards sent home from Spain predictably exclaim: 'It is (6) **b**_____ hot here!' while friends at home endure a dull and (7) **b**_____ day. Weather idioms pervade everyday conversation: feeling slightly unwell is described as feeling (8) **u**_____ the weather; exaggerating a minor problem is making (9) **h**_____ weather of something; and if you monitor a developing crisis attentively, you keep a weather (10) **e**_____ on it.

Exercise 4: Weather Collocations

Match an adjective from the box with a noun below to form authentic meteorological collocations.

Adjectives: bitterly • dark • dry • freezing • heavy • lovely • mild • strong • thick

1. a _____ climate

2. _____ cold weather

3. _____ rain

4. _____ clouds

5. a _____ spell

6. a _____ wind

7. _____ fog

8. _____ weather

9. _____ temperatures

10. _____ gales

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Exercise 5: Weather Idioms in Action

Match each weather idiom (1-10) with the real-life situation (a-j) that best illustrates its meaning.

1. the calm before the storm

2. to be under a cloud

3. it never rains but it pours

4. to be in a fog

5. come rain or shine

6. make heavy weather of something

7. save something for a rainy day

8. a storm in a teacup

9. lightning never strikes twice

10. feel under the weather

a. You believe misfortune will not occur in the same location again.

b. Putting surplus income into savings for future emergencies.

c. Suspected of theft or wrongdoing by colleagues.

d. Waking up with a headache and fever, needing bed rest.

e. Huge anger and drama over a trivial misunderstanding.

f. Complicating an otherwise basic administrative task.

g. Three separate household appliances breaking down on the same morning.

h. A committed jogger training outdoors regardless of the forecast.

i. Wandering in a dazed, confused mental state after an accident.

j. An unnerving, deceptive period of peace before conflict erupts.

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Exercise 6: Geographical Landscape Features

Study the numbered physical features in the landscape illustration and match each one with a geographical term from the word bank. There are 3 distractors.



Word bank: beach • cave • cliff • desert • forest • hill • lake • mountain • path • pebbles • river • sea • volcano

Exercise 7: Geographical Size Comparisons

Group the geographical terms into logical pairs and state which feature of the two is the larger.

bay • beach • bush • city • coast • forest • gulf • hill • lake • lane • mountain • ocean • pebble • pond • road • rock • sea • town • tree • wood

Example: river / stream → (river)

1. hill / mountain → **Bigger:** _____

2. pond / lake → **Bigger:** _____

3. sea / ocean → **Bigger:** _____

4. pebble / rock → **Bigger:** _____

5. town / city → **Bigger:** _____

6. bush / tree → **Bigger:** _____

7. lane / road → **Bigger:** _____

8. wood / forest → **Bigger:** _____

9. bay / gulf → **Bigger:** _____

10. beach / coast → **Bigger:** _____

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Exercise 8: Natural World Definitions

Write the natural or geographical term described by each statement.

1. A very large body of inland water surrounded entirely by land: _____

2. A small area covered with growing trees: _____

3. A immense expanse of salt water dividing continents: _____

4. A strip of sand and gravel bordering the edge of the sea: _____

5. A natural elevation of the earth's surface smaller than a mountain: _____

6. A narrow countryside track made for pedestrians or animals: _____

7. A very broad curved inlet of the ocean extending inland: _____

8. An expansive tract of land densely covered with mature trees: _____

9. A tall perennial woody plant featuring a trunk and high branches: _____

10. A small basin of still water, frequently located in a garden: _____

11. A small stone smoothed and rounded by the action of water: _____

12. A large human settlement with extensive housing, commerce, and streets: _____

13. A low, dense woody plant with multiple stems branching near the ground: _____

14. The zone of land directly adjoining or bordering the sea: _____

15. A dramatic, steep natural landform rising high above its surroundings: _____

16. A regional expanse of saltwater partially enclosed by land: _____

17. A paved, prepared route designed for motor vehicular transit: _____

18. A recessed coastal body of water where shoreline curves inwards: _____

19. A major urban centre containing businesses, factories, and cathedral or civic status: _____

20. A solid mass of mineral matter of considerable size: _____

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Exercise 9: Environmental Cloze: 'Save It!'

Word Bank: atmosphere • energy • environmental • exhaust • fuel • greenhouse • on • recycling • resources • weather

Complete the environmental passage by choosing the correct word from the bank.

In modern society, the scale of (1) _____ challenges has accelerated dramatically. One of the greatest dangers stems from alterations to the earth's (2) _____, which has exacerbated the (3) _____ effect, triggering rising planetary temperatures. This shift is generating unstable (4) _____ patterns worldwide, bringing severe droughts alongside catastrophic flooding. Cutting down (5) _____ toxic (6) _____ emissions from cars will undoubtedly help mitigate the damage. Furthermore, finite natural (7) _____ such as petroleum, gas, and coal will soon be exhausted, making investment in clean (8) _____ sources like wind, solar, and wave generators imperative. In cities, transition towards electric vehicles offers a far cleaner alternative than fossil (9) _____. Finally, ordinary households must adopt sustainable habits, particularly (10) _____ materials made from paper, glass, aluminium, and plastic.

Exercise 10: Environmental Word Formation

Use the root word given in capital letters to form an appropriate word that fits each sentence.

1. Tougher international legislation is needed to limit the severe _____ of our waterways. [POLLUTE]

2. The unseasonal typhoon caused _____ damage to vulnerable coastal villages. [DISASTER]

3. Loss of natural woodland has pushed the indigenous black rhinoceros to the brink of _____. [EXTINCT]

4. Discharging chemical industrial waste without neutralising it is extremely _____ to aquatic organisms. [HARM]

5. Acidic rainfall continues to cause _____ consequences for European pine forests. [DAMAGE]

6. Demographers warn that the rapid expansion of global _____ puts immense pressure on clean water supplies. [POPULATE]

7. Preserving pristine biodiversity hotspots is essential for the long-term _____ of endangered primates. [SURVIVE]

8. The state national park system ensures legal _____ for ancient native ecosystems. [PROTECT]

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9. While affluent nations produce substantial surplus food, extreme _____ plagues developing regions. [POOR]

10. Prolonged arid spells have left hundreds of thousands facing catastrophic drought and imminent _____. [STARVE]

Exercise 11: Environmental Collocations

Match each prompt below with one or more suitable nouns to create valid environmental collocations.

Noun Bank: effect • energy • fumes • fuels • gases • jams • layer • pollution • rain • rain forest • resources • transport • warming • waste products

1. acid _____

2. tropical _____

3. exhaust _____

4. global _____

5. ozone _____

6. nuclear _____

7. public _____

8. traffic _____

9. natural _____

10. air _____

11. greenhouse _____

12. greenhouse _____

13. solar _____

14. finite _____

15. clean _____

16. renewable _____

17. noise _____

18. toxic _____

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