

Live Lesson Notes

THE WEATHER

What you will learn in this worksheet:

1. Useful links
2. Vocabulary to talk about the weather
3. Listening Task - Interview with Fiona
4. Idioms to talk about the weather

[@topic based vocabulary](#)

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IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Weather

In this lesson you will learn some vocabulary and useful expressions to talk about the weather.

1. Using ADJECTIVES to describe the weather

*It's **hot** in my city*

*It's **rainy** today*

It's _____ in my city

It's _____ today

Let's look at some different adjectives you can use. Remember, in IELTS Speaking you need to use a wide range of vocabulary, so as you practice, always try to build up new words, synonyms (similar meaning) and antonyms (opposite meaning).

Ways of saying VERY HOT

scorching

sweltering

boiling

baking

It's sweltering today

@Topic_based_vocabulary

Different ways of saying COLD

The following are from the coldest at the top, to the least cold at the bottom.

Freezing / freezing cold
Bitterly cold
Cold
Nippy
Quite chilly
Cool

Different ways of saying WET

it's humid
it's muggy
it's damp

I'm soaking wet (because I was walking in the rain)

Different ways fo saying NOT VERY BRIGHT (no sunshine)

cloudy
overcast (cloudy)
dull (dark and cloudy)
bleak (not bright and it is cold)
gloomy (not bright and it is cold)
dismal (not nice, cold, gloomy)
foggy
misty
muggy

Notice: Bright (adj.) can also mean intelligent, and dull (adj.) can also mean unintelligent.

2. Using NOUNS to describe the weather

We got a lot of rain in my city
We frequently have showers in my city

We get a lot of _____
We frequently have _____

Nouns connected to the sun

sunshine
sunny spells (*short periods of sunshine*)
heat waves (*long periods of intense heat*)

Nouns connected to the rain

tropical storms
showers
downpours
heavy rain
torrential rain
typhoons
droughts (*no rain for long periods*)

Nouns connected to the snow

snow
sleet (snow + rain)
snow storms
blizzards (*snow storm*)

Nouns connected to the wind

wind
storms
hurricanes
typhoons

3. Using VERBS to describe the weather

We can use either the **present simple** or the **present continuous** here. The meaning is almost the same, just the feeling is a little stronger and more vivid when we use the present continuous, almost like you are complaining.

1. Present Simple

It always rains where I live

It always / often / usually _____ where I live

rains
pours
pours down
drizzles (=light rain),

snows
sleets
hails (balls of hard snow)

2. Present Continuous

It is always raining where I live

It is always _____ where I live

raining
pouring
pouring down
drizzling (=light rain),

snowing
sleeting
hailing (balls of hard snow)

Here are other ways of using verbs to talk about the weather.

It tends to rain a lot where I live

It tends to _____ (verb) _____ where I live

rain a lot
pour down
snow

IELTS Speaking Vocabulary: Changes in the Weather

There are probably 5 main kinds of weather.

1. Hot
2. Mild (in between hot and cold)
3. Cold
4. Wet
5. Dry

The weather changes due to a number of different factors, including the following

- Different seasons
- Different location
- Changes in air pressure and wind
- Pollution
- Climate change

Find out more about weather changes below:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/weather/what-causes-weather/>

What is the weather like in your country?

It depends on _____, if we are talking about _____, then _____

It depends on the season, if we are talking about summer, then it tends to be scorching most of the time.

It depends on the location, if we are talking about the north, then we have a lot of rain.

If you want to talk about **Climate Change**, you can find lots of useful **information here**

<https://keithspeakingacademy.com/how-to-talk-about-climate-change-in-ielts-speaking/>

IELTS Speaking Conversations and Tips

In this interview, I speak to Fiona Wattam, (aka Fiona with IELTS). She is Welsh and lives in England working in a university as a teacher and learning technologist.

She also runs an online membership academy to support students preparing for the IELTS test.

In this interview, she talks about her passions, outside of work, and gives some tips for students of English and IELTS.

Find out more about Fiona here
www.ieltsetc.com

First, here is some vocabulary that will help you understand the interview.

Useful Vocabulary

Parallels (n.) = *similarities*

There is a parallel between ___A___ and ___B___

To **have something in mind** = *to be thinking about something*

To be **consistent** = *to do something everyday / regularly*

As soon as I get on the road

/ su:nəzɑɪ /

Notice the pronunciation of this phrase in the interview. Linking makes it into a memorable chunk.

To plod along (inf.) = *to continue slowly and boringly*

I am plodding along with my studies

My new project at work is plodding along

To be spoon-fed = *to give so much information or help that a person doesn't need to think (negative). Similar to 'to be spoilt'.*

We shouldn't spoon-feed students, let them do more things on their own.

Watch, listen and answer the following:

1. Where does she live?
2. What are her 2 passions?
3. What are her tips for learning English?

Answers at the end of the PDF

IELTS Speaking Idioms about Weather

Come rain or shine = *whatever happens*

*Every Friday, we watch a family film, **come rain or shine**.*

To **pour down** = to rain a lot

It's been pouring down for hours, I wish it would stop

To **pick up** = to get better

The weather has been dismal lately, but it's picking up at last

Notice:

To pick up something = to learn informally

Something picks up = get better

Out of the blue = totally unexpected

Yesterday, out of the blue, we had a typhoon

To be **snowed under** = *to have a lot of work*

I can't go to the bar with you, I am snowed under at work.

Interview Answers:

1. Where does she live?

Colchester in the UK

2. What are her 2 passions?

Technology and running
Learning technologists

3. What are her tips for learning English?

Be consistent
Read more the booklist
Do more than the bare minimum
Stop learning IELTS as a subject
Compare with others (in a community) to get motivation
Lots of repetition