

SEASONS AND WEATHER

Vocabulary

calendar – a table showing days, weeks, and months of a year

time – a particular moment during a day (measured on a clock)

day – one of the periods of time that a week is divided into (equal to 24 hours)

week – a period of seven days

weekday – any day of the week except Saturday and Sunday

weekend – Saturday and Sunday, especially considered as time when you do not work

month – one of the 12 named periods of time that a year is divided into

season – one of the four periods into which the year is divided according to the weather

winter – the season after autumn and before spring when the weather is coldest

spring – the season between winter and summer when leaves and flowers appear

summer – the time of the year when the sun is hottest and the days are longest, between spring and autumn

autumn (BrE)/fall (AmE) – the season between summer and winter when leaves change colour and the weather becomes cooler

	Month	Short form	Season
1	January	Jan.	winter
2	February	Feb.	
3	March	Mar.	spring
4	April	Apr.	
5	May	May	
6	June	June	summer
7	July	July	
8	August	Aug.	
9	September	Sept.	autumn (BrE)/fall (AmE)
10	October	Oct.	
11	November	Nov.	
12	December	Dec.	winter

year – a period of about 365 days or 12 months, measured from any particular time

leap year – a year, which happens every fourth year, when February has 29 days instead of 28

decade – a period of 10 years

century – a period of 100 years, usually counted from a year ending in –00

millennium – a period of 1,000 years
holiday – a time of rest from work, school, etc.
weather – the temperature and other conditions such as sun, rain, and wind
rain – water that falls in small drops from clouds in the sky
sunshine – the light and heat that come from the sun when there is no cloud
wind – moving air, especially when it moves strongly or quickly in a current
fog – small drops of water that float above the ground (and it can be difficult to see through this mist of water).
cold – when there is cold weather, the temperature of the air is very low
hot – when the temperature of the air is very high
frosty – very cold weather, when water freezes
chilly – chilly weather or places are cold enough to make you feel uncomfortable
snow – soft white pieces of frozen water that fall from the sky in cold weather and cover the ground
blizzard – a severe snowstorm
tornado – an extremely violent storm consisting of air that spins very quickly and causes a lot of damage
hurricane – a storm that has very strong fast winds and that moves over water
flood – a large amount of water that covers land that is usually dry
thermometer – an instrument used to measure the temperature
Celsius/Fahrenheit – the main scales used to measure the temperature. In the United States, the weather is reported in Fahrenheit
freezing – extremely cold
heatwave – when it is hotter than usual, for a long period of time
summery – suitable for or reminding you of the summer
shelter – protection from danger or from bad weather

Verbs

to shiver – to shake slightly because you are cold or frightened
to turn out – to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result, especially one that you did not expect
to sunbathe – to sit or lie in the sun, often in order to make your skin darker
to chill out (informal) – to relax completely
to handle something – to manage or to solve a situation or a problem
to put off – to delay doing something, especially when you do not want to do
to end up – to reach some conclusion, state, or situation due to a particular course of action
to clear up (about the sky) – to become more clear
to head off to (somewhere) – to leave to go to another place
to brighten up – to become cheerful

Phrases

weather forecast – a statement saying what the weather will be like the next day or for the next few days

to take place – to occur

cold snap – when it is cold for a period of time

sunny spell – when it is sunny for a period of time

partly cloudy – when there is both cloud and sunshine

high/rising temperatures – when it is hot

low/falling temperatures – when it is cold

above/below freezing – when the temperature is above 0°C or below 0°C (for example, -2°C is “minus two”)

I can't bear such weather conditions. – to dislike such weather conditions very much

to sip drinks – to drink in a small amount

to get one's hopes up – to become enthusiastic about something that is not yet guaranteed to happen

You'd soon have enough – you would soon get tired of something

to sleep like a log – to sleep very well

Indian summer – a period of unseasonably warm, dry weather that sometimes occurs in autumn

ray of sunshine – a person who brings happiness into the lives of others

midsummer madness – foolish or reckless behaviour which seems to escalate at the height of summer

knight in shining armour/armor – an idealised and chivalrous hero who rescues someone from a difficult situation

to make a storm in a teacup – when someone makes a small problem larger than it really is

ray of hope – there is a chance that something positive will happen

rain shower – a brief rainfall, usually of variable intensity.

No way. – Not at all. OR Never.

Don't be a wet blanket. – Don't be so boring.

Are you kidding me? – used when someone says something surprising or that seems as if it could not be serious or true

Grammar Corner

We use the present continuous tense to describe weather conditions and background situations.

*e.g. The weather is wonderful! The sun is shining, the birds are singing.
It isn't pouring outside.*

We use the imperatives to give instructions or commands. We use the base form of the main verb without a subject in declarative sentences. We use the auxiliary verb do + not and the base form of the main verb without a subject in negative sentences.

*e.g. Help me out.
Don't be so negative.*

Real Life Situations

(P1 – Person 1, P2 – Person 2)

Weather (1)

P1: Lovely weather today, isn't it?

P2: Lovely weather?! I can't stop shivering! It's freezing cold!

P1: Yeah, it's become quite chilly all of a sudden.

P2: Chilly? Have you looked at the thermometer? The temperature is below freezing. It's minus 10°C!

P1: Yeah, I may agree that a cold snap like this is not very typical in February, especially in our region. But how beautiful it is – snow and sunshine!

P2: Are you kidding me? I have told you a million times – I hate winter and low temperatures. It is always so frosty and windy here in winter. And these blizzards that take place every January... Ugh, I can't bear such weather conditions. One day I will definitely move to a warm country, where there is eternal summer, 365 days a year.

P1: Which country would you prefer?

P2: Maybe Australia, it seems like a nice place to live, and people speak English there.

P1: Don't you know that our summer months are Australian winter months? Of course, it's not as cold as in our region there, but the temperature falls down to +12°C only.

P2: I know, but winters without fog, blizzards and freezing temperatures sound more appealing to me. I am a 100 % summer person. I was born for sunbathing and chilling near the pool, sipping drinks, and catching heatwaves.

P1: Don't get your hopes up, buddy. You'd soon have enough. Kangaroos, crocodiles, spiders, and constant unbearable heat.

P2: Everything is better than cold weather for me.

P1: On the other hand, you are lucky to have an opportunity to enjoy all four seasons of the year: snowy white winter, green and bright spring, hot summer, golden autumn. Imagine that there are people in this world who have never seen snow!

P2: That's true. I'm so jealous of them.

P1: Enjoy the moment. Let's better go and drink hot coffee.

P2: Good idea. Coffee can make any day and weather better.

Weather (2)

P1: My ray of sunshine, have you heard that noise last night?

P2: No, honey, I slept like a log. What was it?

P1: It seems that Mr. Smith decided to mow his lawn at 1 am.

P2: Was it too loud?

P1: Oh yes it was. Plus he was doing it while listening to Elvis Presley's songs.

P2: Oh, I think we should tell him that he is disturbing us.

P1: It seems Mrs. Thompson's dogs didn't like that too. They kept barking all night.

P2: Midsummer madness!

P1: Have you looked at the calendar? It's already the 15th of September, what kind of midsummer madness?

P2: Well... It's Indian summer now. This is the only explanation I have.

P1: If it happens tonight again, I'll die. I should work on my book but I can't focus on anything.

P2: Cheer up, love. Don't make a storm in a teacup. I will talk to him and ask him to stop.

P1: You are my knight in shining armor! You always handle all problems.

P2: Because I am your husband and I love you.

P1: Oh, after all, there's a ray of hope that I will sleep tight tonight.

Weather Forecast

P1: Have you heard the weather forecast for next week?

P2: No, what for? I already take an umbrella and a raincoat every day with me. It's obvious that this summer we will see nothing but rain.

P1: This time you are mistaken. Next week a cold front will move out and a warm front will move in. All Boston citizens will have a chance to enjoy the sunny spell for a week or so.

P2: Why is the sky so dark then?

P1: It was reported that this weekend it would be partly cloudy with the big chance of rain showers. Although in a few days you can forget about an umbrella and the bad mood. I think we can even make plans and go to a park for a picnic on Wednesday evening.

P2: Picnic? No way. I know my luck, as soon as we step outside this door without an umbrella, rain, flood, or any other disaster will hit us. No, let's put off a picnic for better weather.

P1: Don't be a wet blanket! I told you that the weather is going to be very summery. It's going to be warm and sunny. The temperature will reach 25 degrees. I'm sure we can make really cool photos so you can upload them on your social networks.

P2: Hmm photos? Okay, you convinced me. But if we go on a picnic and the weather will end up being bad and rainy again, it'll be your fault.

on Wednesday

P1: Oh, the sky is so grey and there is no sunshine, I hope it will clear up when we get to the park.

P2: Oh no, it's starting to rain!

P1: Have you got an umbrella with you?

P2: No!

P1: Why not? You used to take it with you all the time!

P2: Because you told me not to! You said you had checked the weather forecast and the weather would be summery! Is it the definition of the summery weather – wet, chilly, and windy? I don't think so!



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P1: Hey, relax. There is no bad weather, there are only inappropriate clothes. You should have taken a jacket and a raincoat with you.

P2: Are you kidding me? Let's head off and find some shelter or we'll get soaked.