Cold weather

In Northern Europe, **daytime**¹ temperatures are often quite mild, even in **late**² autumn. The days are often **misty**³, foggy and **damp**⁴. Soon, winter arrives, with **frost**⁵, icy roads and **severe**⁶ weather, including heavy snow. As people **expect** the weather to be bad, they try and keep warm so they don't **freeze**! Freezing weather may continue in the far north until May or even June, when the ground starts to **thaw** $/\theta_{2}$ /⁷ and the ice **melts**⁸ again.









² towards the end of a period of time ¹during the day ³ with clouds of small drops of water in the air, making it difficult to see things in the distance ⁴slightly wet, and not pleasant or comfortable ⁵ thin, white layer of ice on surfaces when the weather is very cold ⁶ extremely bad ⁷ change from hard, frozen state to softer state ⁸ change from solid to liquid under heat

Warm/ hot weather



In a **tropical**¹ climate, the weather is often **stifling**², **muggy**³ and humid⁴. In other hot climates, there may be **boiling**⁵ hot days, and heatwaves⁶ may be common.

¹very hot, as in countries near the Equator ² hot, uncomfortable, you can hardly breathe ³ very warm and a little damp ⁴ hot and damp, makes you sweat a ⁵ extremely hot ⁶ very hot, dry periods lot

Wet weather



torrential pour down rain

flood

rain This wet weather scale gets stronger from left to right.

shower (noun) → heavy rain → pour down (verb) / downpour (noun) → torrential rain → flood (noun and verb)

This rain won't last long; it's only a **shower**. [short period of rain]

There was quite **heavy rain** during the night. / It **rained heavily** during the night.

It was absolutely **pouring down** yesterday. / There was a real **downpour**.

In Malaysia there is usually **torrential rain** most days, and the roads sometimes get **flooded**. / There are sometimes **floods** on the roads.

The sky's a bit **overcast**; I think it's going to rain. [very cloudy] We had a **drought** /draut/ last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks.

Wind D

There was a **gentle breeze** on the beach, just enough to cool us. There was a very **strong/high wind** and my umbrella blew away. There was a **gale** that day, so we didn't go sailing. [very high wind] People stayed indoors because there was a **hurricane** on the way. [extremely high, dangerous wind]



Common mistakes

The noun *weather* is uncountable. We say: We had **bad weather** that day. (NOT We had a bad weather.)

В

Exercises

6.1 Answer the questions about the words in A opposite.

- 1 Which adjective could you use to describe something that is wet, but not very wet? damp
- 2 Which adjective would you use before 'summer' to refer to the end part of it?
- 3 Which verb means the temperature has gone up and there is no longer frost or ice?
- 4 Which word can be used to describe something that happens in the day?
- 5 What happens to ice cream on a very hot day?
- 6 If you see a thin, white covering on everything on a cold day, what is it?
- 7 If you can't see things in the distance, what is the weather probably like?
- 8 Which two adjectives could you use to describe a wind that blows very hard?
- 9 Which adjective can you use to describe very bad weather?

6.2 What types of weather do these pictures suggest?



6.3 Rewrite the words in bold using words from B opposite.

I think it would be interesting to live in a **hot** *tropical* climate. However, I don't like weather **that is hot and damp and makes you sweat** . I even dislike the days **that are slightly warm and damp** which we get in the UK. Some people love **extremely** hot days, and I don't mind **very hot, dry periods** occasionally, but when it's **hot and uncomfortable and you can hardly breathe** it's just impossible. Maybe I should stay at home and forget about moving to a hot climate!

6.4 What kinds of weather do you think caused the following to happen? Write a sentence which could go *before* each of these. Use words from the opposite page.

1	The weather was stifling .	We had to use the air-conditioning every afternoon.
2		The sweat was pouring out of us.
3		It just cooled us nicely on the hot beach.
4		Cars were sliding everywhere out of control.
5		The postman had to use a boat to get around.
6		You couldn't really see the trees in the distance.
7		The earth became rock hard and a lot of plants died.
8		It blew the newspaper right out of my hands.
9		My hair and clothes got soaking wet.
10		It looked as if it would rain at any minute.

6.5 Over to you

This chart shows anyone who wants to visit the West of Ireland what weather they can expect at different times of the year. Make a similar chart for your country or home region.

DecDMar	AprilÐJune	JulyÐAıg	SeptÐNov
coldest months; usual		warmest months;	often mild, becoming
wet; heavy rain; snow		sunny, with showers;	cold; damp, misty and
high ground		cool sea breezes	foggy, often overcast