

Weather Vocabulary Teacher's Notes – by Lindsay Clandfield

Level: Upper intermediate

Aims: Students learn fifteen to seventeen items of weather lexis. There is a speaking task in this vocabulary lesson to incorporate the new words. There is also a section on idiomatic expressions connected to the weather. The penultimate task is a webquest, where students go online to the largest weather network and design a quiz for each other.

Warmer – Talking about the weather in class

Ask your students “What is the weather today?” Elicit some answers and follow up with other questions. “Is this normal weather for [October]?” “Do you like this weather?” “What is your favorite weather?” “What different kinds of weather do you have in your country?”

Spidergram

Explain the first exercise on the worksheet and ask students to complete it in pairs. Check back the answers and clarify meaning of completely unknown words where necessary.

Answers: WIND a gust, a gale, a breeze RAIN a downpour, drizzle, a shower TEMPERATURE freezing, cool, warm, cold, hot, mild, boiling SUN & CLOUD overcast, foggy, to shine

Speaking

Ask students to do this in pairs. They should each ask and answer the questions. When they have finished, ask some of the students what interesting information they found out about their partner.

Weather idioms

Read out the title of the worksheet and explain what it means (The phrase means ‘Let's not do the activity we were going to now, but do it another time.’ This term originates from American baseball. When it rains and the game is cancelled American spectators are given a 'check' or ticket to return another day.)

Now read out some of the other idioms. Can the students guess what they mean? If they are having problems, get them to work on the exercise together. Check back answers. Ask if the students have any expressions connected to the weather in their own language. Are they similar to the ones in the exercise?

ANSWERS: 1.h 2.g 3.a 4.d 5.e 6.b 7.c 8.f

Weather webquest

This is an optional follow-up exercise to the lesson if your students have access to the internet. Divide students into different groups and send each group to one of the two recommended sites on the worksheet. Ask them to make their own questions based on the information they read. Collect the questions and assign them to new groups on the next day you are in the Internet room.

Using the Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners of American English CD ROM

Let students try the quiz. It is best done using the search facilities on a dictionary CD ROM but can also be done using a good learner's dictionary.

Weather Dictionary Quiz

- 1 ‘Wind and sun had _____ his face’ (What is the verb?)
- 2 ‘Come rain or _____ she always runs miles in the morning.’ (Complete the expression.)
- 3 (For adults only!) ‘He thinks the sun shines out of his _____.’
- 4 Which part of the USA is called the ‘sun-belt’?
- 5 What happens to pale-skinned people from cold climates when they get too much sun?
- 6 Someone who makes a lot of money for a business is a rain-_____.
- 7 When a sports event or an outside event is cancelled because of rain, it is rained ____.