

## In this unit

## Grammar

- present simple and present continuous

## Vocabulary

- the weather
- modifiers
- adventure holiday activities

## Scenario

- Latin American adventure

## Study skills

- dictionary skills (understanding meaning)

## Writing skills

- a guidebook entry

## 1.1 EXTREMES

A



*Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get.*  
Mark Twain, 1835–1910, US writer and humorist

## VOCABULARY: the weather

**1a** Match the photos A–D with the types of weather in the box. Do you have any of this weather in your country?

blizzard drought hurricane storm

**1b** Read these Internet news reports. Which situation is the most serious. Why?

**2** Choose the correct word 1–8 in the news reports.

## LISTENING

**3a** <sup>1.2</sup> Listen to this British news report about Florida, in the USA, before a hurricane hits. Number the sections of the report in order (1–4).

- latest information about this hurricane
- interviews with members of the public
- the connection with global warming
- news about the police

**3b** Listen again. Are these sentences true or false?

- The man in the house does not have much food.
- The weather at the coast is currently bad.
- Hurricanes are unusual in this area.
- The police officers are in the police station.
- Every year there are more strong hurricanes.

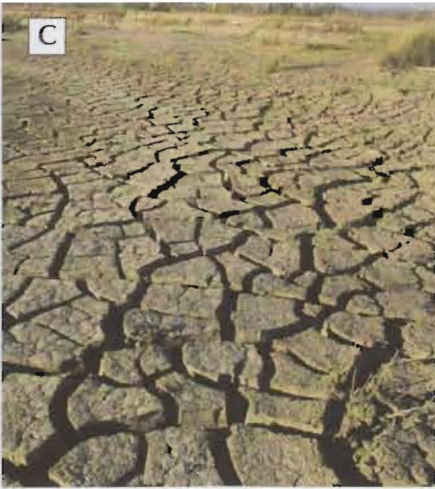
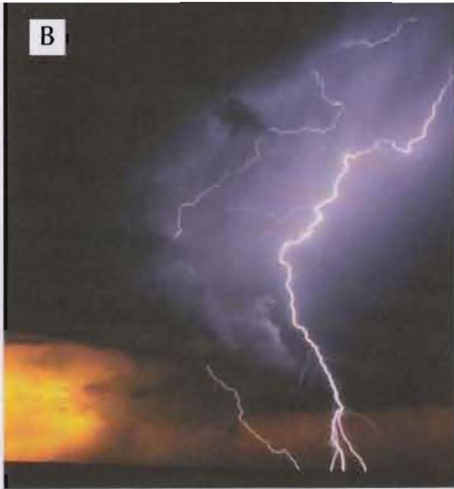
Apple (114) Yahoo! Amazon UK News (1177)

## OnlineNews WEATHER

It's three days after Hurricane Katrina hit the US coast, but New Orleans is still suffering from strong <sup>1</sup>wind / fog and heavy <sup>2</sup>rainy / rain. Thousands of people are waiting for help. Half of the city is underwater and the army is still repairing the river walls.

The green and pleasant land of England is turning brown. After two cold, <sup>3</sup>humid / dry winters and <sup>4</sup>hot / rain summers, the south-east of England is experiencing a serious drought. Many lakes and rivers are now <sup>5</sup>wet / dry.

Following yesterday's blizzards and the heavy fall of <sup>6</sup>snow / cloudy, the police in New Zealand are using helicopters to reach hundreds of people in the countryside. It is still very <sup>7</sup>warm / windy and the <sup>8</sup>ice / sun is causing problems for the rescue teams.



## GRAMMAR: present simple and present continuous

**4a** Which of these sentences are in the present simple (PS)? Which are in the present continuous (PC)?

- 1 At the moment, I'm covering the windows with wood.
- 2 We always help everyone.
- 3 The number of strong hurricanes is increasing.
- 4 Warm seas cause hurricanes.

How do we make negative sentences with these tenses?

**4b** Match the sentences 1–4 above with these grammar notes.

- a) This is a regular action or habit.
- b) This is an action happening now, or around now.
- c) This is a fact or general truth.
- d) This is a trend (i.e. a changing situation).

➔ Language reference and extra practice, pages 126–127

**4c** Complete these sentences. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs.

- 1 'Be quiet! I \_\_\_\_\_ to the news on the radio.' (listen)
- 2 In India, most rain usually \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer months, June to August. (fall)
- 3 Lightning \_\_\_\_\_ the Empire State Building in New York 500 times every year. (hit)
- 4 These days, more rain \_\_\_\_\_ in Australia because of global warming. (fall)
- 5 It \_\_\_\_\_ in tropical countries like Brazil. (not snow)
- 6 'It \_\_\_\_\_ now. Let's go to the park.' (not rain)

There are two types of verbs: **state verbs** and **action verbs**. State verbs usually describe feelings and situations, e.g. *be, have*. Action verbs describe activities and movements, e.g. *hit, play*.

**5** Underline the main verb in these sentences. Are they state or action verbs in these examples?

- 1 It is still very cold today.
- 2 It's coming towards Florida.
- 3 I have a lot of food in my house.
- 4 Hurricanes are getting stronger.
- 5 I know about the danger.

What tense do we usually use for state verbs?

**6** Complete this Internet news report. Use the present simple or present continuous of the verbs.

### Storms hit the UK

There are heavy storms in the UK. Winds of 60 kilometres per hour <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) the west coast, with more storms later this weekend. Experts say that these storms are unusual. 'Today, these storms <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very strong. We usually <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (get) this kind of weather in the winter, not now.'

The heavy rain <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (cause) major transport problems – currently, the trains and ferries <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not work).

The emergency services are helping local residents. 'Right now, we <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (move) people to safe areas and we <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (give) them hot food.' A group of fishermen are lost at sea and a rescue team <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for them. 'We <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not usually fly) in this kind of weather, but today <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) a normal day.'

## SPEAKING

**7** Discuss these questions with a partner.

- 1 What extreme weather does your country have?
- 2 What problems does the extreme weather cause?
- 3 Do you think your country's weather is changing?
- 4 Which types of weather do/don't you like? Why / Why not?

hot, sunny days	rainy days
clear, cold days	warm, cloudy days
hot, humid days	cool, cloudy days
windy days	foggy days
stormy days	snowy days

Liam O'Connor is a familiar face in homes all over the country. Millions of us watch his documentaries. Now he's making a new programme about life in Russia. Here he tells Gaby Redmond about winter in Siberia.

*Surviving Siberia* - Wednesday 14 May 8 p.m. on Channel 7

# The Big Chill

A \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, it does. Generally speaking, winter starts in September and lasts until May – so for about nine months. In the north, the sun never rises in December and January and it's dark nearly all day.

B \_\_\_\_\_

Well, minus 30 or 40 degrees Celsius is normal, but in northern Siberia the temperature sometimes drops to minus 60 or 70 degrees.

C \_\_\_\_\_

One reason is that, in the far north, the sun is always low in the sky and produces very little heat, so the ground stays cold all year. Another reason is that freezing winds come down from the Arctic because there are no mountains or trees to stop them.

D \_\_\_\_\_

It often snows, but it's rarely heavy. In the far north, snow cover lasts between 260 and 280 days.

E \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, they are. Definitely. Western Siberia is getting warmer faster than anywhere in the world. In fact, it's actually melting. And in some places in eastern Siberia, dangerous gases are rising from the ground. They're stopping the surface from freezing, even in the middle of winter. But it's still very cold!



## READING AND SPEAKING

### 1 Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Are there seasons in your country? If so, what's your favourite season? Why?
- Do you like winter? Why / Why not?
- What do you know about winter in Russia? What do you know about Siberia?

### 2a Read the introduction to the text quickly.

Where is the text from?

- a guidebook to Siberia
- a book about climate change
- a magazine about TV programmes

### 2b Read the rest of the text. Complete it with these interview questions.

- Really? Why do they do that?
- How do people keep warm?
- Is the climate changing? Are winters getting warmer?

- Is it really cold?
- Does winter last a long time?
- What do Russians think about their cold winters?
- I see. What about snow? How much snow is there in Siberia?
- What about you? What do you think about winter in Siberia?
- And what's life like? Is it very difficult for people?
- That's incredible! Why is it so cold?

### 2c Complete these sentences with one or two words. (The words you need are in the text.)

- Winter lasts for about \_\_\_\_\_ in Siberia.
- Temperatures of minus 70 degrees are not \_\_\_\_\_.
- The ground stays cold because \_\_\_\_\_ produces very little heat.
- In some places in eastern Siberia \_\_\_\_\_ are melting the frozen ground.
- A lot of things \_\_\_\_\_ in the very cold conditions.
- People wear \_\_\_\_\_ to keep warm in Siberia.

F \_\_\_\_\_  
They wear fur. In the West, we consider fur a luxury, but it's the only thing that keeps you warm when it's extremely cold.

G \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes, it is. Without gloves, your fingers freeze. The little hairs in your nose freeze too. It's quite scary! The tyres of cars and lorries burst. Sometimes children can't go to school because it's so cold. They have lessons on TV!

H \_\_\_\_\_  
Actually, they don't mind them. They enjoy a lot of outdoor sports. Ice-skating is the number one sport – it's really popular. They also like cross-country skiing and ice-hockey. Reindeer racing is quite popular too. Some people swim in rivers and lakes in the sub-zero temperatures.

I \_\_\_\_\_  
They say there are health benefits to swimming in icy water. It's a way to avoid colds. Also, it's a real community event. Everyone takes part – men, women and children.

J \_\_\_\_\_  
Well, to tell you the truth, I love it! In my home city, Liverpool, the winters are usually cloudy and mild and I don't like them much. You don't get many days when the weather's fine, you know, sunny and not raining. In Siberia, it's different. On bright sunny days, it's very beautiful.



## VOCABULARY: modifiers

3a Match these comments about cold weather in London with the temperatures.

- 1 It's very cold. / It's really cold.
- 2 It's extremely cold.
- 3 It's quite cold.

A		-5°C	B		8°C
C		1°C			

3b Use the phrases above to talk about the winter months in your country, or other places you know.  
*It's usually very foggy in my city in November, and it's extremely cold in January.*

## GRAMMAR: present simple and present continuous questions

4a Look at Exercise 2b. Which questions are in the present simple? Which are in the present continuous?

4b Match 1–3 with a–c to complete these grammar notes.

- 1 When *be* is the main verb, we make present simple questions
- 2 When the main verb isn't *be*, we make present simple questions
- 3 We make present continuous questions
  - a) with the auxiliary verb *do/does* + subject + infinitive of the main verb.
  - b) with the auxiliary verb *am/is/are* + subject + *-ing* form of the main verb.
  - c) with *am/is/are* before the subject.

5a Underline the question words in Exercise 2b. What other question words do you know?

➔ Language reference and extra practice, pages 126–127

5b Put the words in order to make questions. Then ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 sad you days do on feel cloudy ?
- 2 wearing your teacher what's today ?
- 3 English are fun learning you for ?
- 4 time your how spend free you do ?
- 5 friends doing what now are your ?

5c Look at these answers to questions about the text in Exercise 2b. Write the questions.

- 1 In September. *When does winter start?*
- 2 In northern Siberia.
- 3 Because it's always low in the sky.
- 4 Dangerous gases.
- 5 Yes, it is. Faster than anywhere in the world.
- 6 Yes, they do. The hairs in your nose freeze too!

## SPEAKING

6 Work in groups of three. Do the quiz about winter on page 110.

## WRITING

7 Write four or five sentences describing winter in your country.

## SITUATION

**1a** Look at the advert below for Double Action Adventures. Why does the company have this name? Would you like to go on one of their trips?

**1b** Match the different activities in the advert to the photos A–J.

**2a** Read this email from the boss of Double Action Adventures. What does he want his staff to do?

Dear All

We need your suggestions for two countries for our new holidays in Latin America.

Remember, ideal countries offer a) a range of activities and locations and b) something unusual or different.

Our main customers are adventurous young adults, but we're interested in some new customers:

- 'first-timers' – people having an adventure holiday for the first time.
- older adults (40–60) – active, rich, perhaps retired.

Let's have a meeting next week to discuss all your ideas.

James Ross

**2b** Look at these notes about two possible countries. Which do you think is best for Double Action Adventures? Why?

## SOUTHERN ARGENTINA

	In the mountains	On the southern coast
<b>Activities:</b>	mountain trekking horse riding	three-day Antarctic wildlife cruise sea kayaking with whales
<b>Weather:</b>	Winter cold and windy (March to October)	very cold – no trips/visits possible
	Summer windy and changeable (November to February)	cold – trips/visits possible

## BELIZE

<b>Activities:</b>	On the coast: diving, sea kayaking
	In the jungle: jungle trekking, white-water rafting
<b>Weather:</b>	Rainy season: June to October – heavy rain August to November – hurricane season average temperature 34 °C
	Dry season: November to May average temperature 30 °C

**3a** **1.3** Listen to Diana and Simon (two DAA employees) discuss the two countries above. Which country do they think is the most interesting? Why?



**DOUBLE  
ACTION  
ADVENTURES**

ONE HOLIDAY  
TWO ADVENTURES!

E



Choose an adventure holiday  
with us and get double the action.

Spend your first week white-water rafting in the mountains.

F



**3b** Listen again. Who has these opinions: Diana, Simon or both of them? Write *D*, *S* or *B*.

- 1 The Antarctic trip is a good thing. *B*
- 2 The summer season in the Antarctic is not very long.
- 3 The weather in the mountains is a problem.
- 4 Normal or simple activities are good for first-timers.
- 5 The activities in Belize are very good.
- 6 The dry season is the best time to go to Belize.
- 7 A seven-month holiday season is not very good.

**KEY LANGUAGE:**  
agreeing and disagreeing

**4a** **1.4** Listen and complete these sentences from the conversation with *do*, *don't*, *so* or *neither*.

- 1 D: I think the Antarctic wildlife cruise is a great idea.  
S: Mmm. \_\_\_\_ do I.
- 2 S: I don't like the weather in the mountains.  
D: No, \_\_\_\_ do I.
- 3 S: I don't like the activities – they're very ordinary.  
D: \_\_\_\_ you? I do.
- 4 D: Seven months. I think that's good.  
S: \_\_\_\_ you? I'm not sure.

**4b** In which sentences do they agree? In which do they disagree?

Other activities available:  
mountain biking and trekking,  
sea kayaking, skiing and  
snowboarding, horse riding,  
wildlife watching and island  
cruises.

Trips to North America,  
Australia and Europe. All  
equipment, training and  
guides included.



G



J



H



I

**pronunciation**

**5a** **1.5** **Intonation for agreeing/disagreeing** Listen to these phrases 1–4 and match them with the intonation patterns a–b.

- 1 So do I.                      3 Neither do I.
- 2 Don't you?                4 Do you?



**5b** Listen again and repeat.

**6a** Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Write your answers.

- 1 I think horse riding is interesting.  
*Do you? I don't. / So do I.*
- 2 I don't like walking in strong wind.
- 3 I don't think an Antarctic cruise is a good idea.
- 4 I think white-water rafting is dangerous.
- 5 I want to go sea kayaking.
- 6 I want to go diving.

**6b** Tell your partner your opinions. Does he/she agree with you?

*I don't think horse riding is interesting.  
– Don't you? I do. / Neither do I.*

**TASK: designing a holiday**

**7** You work for Double Action Adventures. Work with a partner to find out about two more countries.

Student A: Look at the notes on page 113.

Student B: Look at the notes on page 111.

**8a** Read the email from the boss in Exercise 2a again. What do you think of the four holidays? What do you think of the activities? How long is the best season for the holidays? Is the weather OK? Make notes.

**8b** Compare your ideas with your partner and choose the best two countries for Double Action Adventures.

**OTHER USEFUL PHRASES**

What do you think about ...?

I think this is a good one because ...

What about ...?            I'm not sure.

### STUDY SKILLS: using your dictionary: understanding meaning

1 Many words in English have more than one meaning. Look at this dictionary entry for *cold*. Match the example sentences a–c with the definitions 1–3.

#### **cold** /kəʊld/ adjective

- 1 something that is cold has a low temperature and is not warm or hot
- 2 cold food is cooked, but is not eaten while it is hot
- 3 a cold person is not very friendly or kind

From Longman Wordwise Dictionary

- a) We eat a lot of cold chicken and salad in the summer.
- b) Some people think that the British are cold.
- c) The weather's really cold today.

2 The words in bold below are used to describe the weather. Turn to page 121 and look at their other meanings. Write the number of the correct definition.

- a) That's a really **cool** film.
- b) Some Thai fish soups are really **hot**.
- c) Gabriella's got very **dark** hair.
- d) They always give visitors a **warm** welcome.
- e) 'How are you?' 'I'm **fine**, thanks.'
- f) His writing isn't **clear**.
- g) This shampoo is for **dry** hair.
- h) She's a **bright** child.
- i) I don't like **mild** cheese.

3 Definitions often give you more information than just the meaning of a word. Work with a partner and answer these questions.

- 1 What colour is a **cloud**?
- 2 Where do we usually see **fog**?
- 3 What happens in **autumn**?
- 4 What kind of a storm is a **hurricane**?
- 5 Write down three facts about a **blizzard**.
- 6 What does the **sun** give us?

Check your answers in a dictionary or turn to page 111.

4a Dictionaries often tell us the opposites of words. Look at this entry for *loud*. We can see that the opposite of *loud* is *quiet*.

#### **loud** /laʊd/ adjective

something that is loud makes a lot of noise  
 □> opposite QUIET: Turn that music down! It's too loud! | I could hear loud voices, arguing.  
 – loudly adverb: 'Stop!' she shouted loudly.

From Longman Wordwise Dictionary

Think of the opposites of these adjectives from this unit. Check your answers in a dictionary.

- 1 long \_\_\_\_\_ 3 heavy \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 strong \_\_\_\_\_ 4 major \_\_\_\_\_

4b Complete these sentences with the opposites.

- 1 There are only \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes in your work.
- 2 It's only a \_\_\_\_\_ distance to the coast.
- 3 I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ coffee.
- 4 My bag's very \_\_\_\_\_ and easy to carry.

### WRITING SKILLS: a guidebook entry

5 How important are these things for you in a guidebook? Give each a mark out of 5 (5 = very important; 1 = not important).

- a) how to get there / travel around
- b) information about the weather / when to go
- c) information about the history of a place
- d) places to visit / things to do
- e) places to stay
- f) what to eat and drink
- g) prices (e.g. accommodation, food)
- h) dangerous places / places to avoid
- i) information about health services
- j) local festivals and events

6 Read the text from a guidebook to Mallorca and answer these questions.

- 1 Why is spring the best time to visit Mallorca?
- 2 What happens to the countryside in the summer?
- 3 How long does the good weather last?
- 4 What's the weather like in winter?
- 5 The text tells us a lot about the weather. What other information is in the text?
- 6 Underline the different areas of the island that the text mentions, e.g. *beach*.

## MALLORCA

### WHEN TO GO

Mallorca has an average of 300 days of sunshine a year, but don't think you can have a beach holiday in November or December!



### SEASONS

#### SPRING

The best time to visit Mallorca is in the spring when the sun is not very strong. At this time, prices (except during Easter week) are still quite low, but the weather is often warm and it is possible to enjoy the beaches. However, it can still be damp and cold, especially in the mountains, so come prepared.

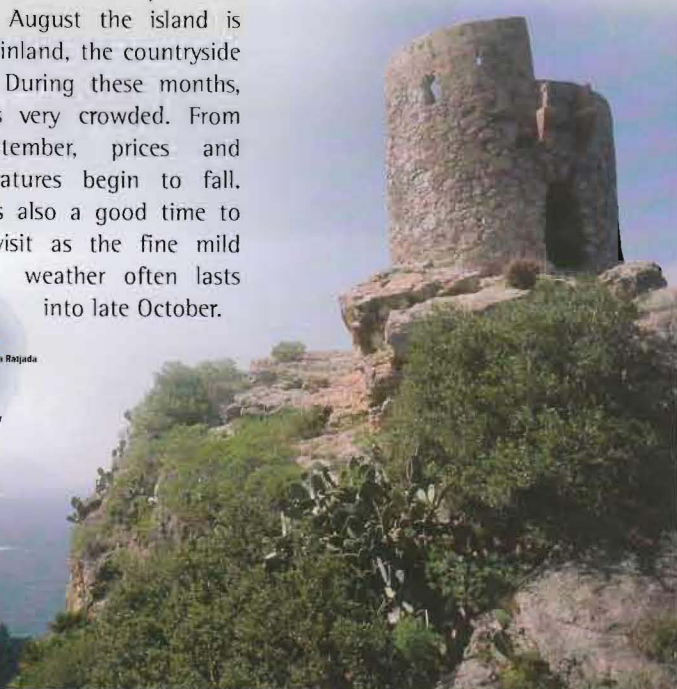
#### SUMMER & AUTUMN

From mid-June, prices and temperatures rise. By July and August the island is extremely hot and, inland, the countryside becomes very dry. During these months, the coast becomes very crowded. From mid-September, prices and temperatures begin to fall.

This is also a good time to visit as the fine mild weather often lasts into late October.

#### WINTER

November to February is winter, when many hotels and restaurants close. It can snow during this period, especially in the high mountains, and it gets extremely cold in some towns (Valldemossa, for example). This is also the rainy season.



**7a Linkers** Words like *and*, *but*, *also* and *when* are linking words. We use them to join ideas. Underline the examples in the text above.

**7b** Complete these definitions with the words in the box.

different fact time words

We use ...

- 1 *and* to join two \_\_\_\_\_ or parts of a sentence.
- 2 *when* to talk about the \_\_\_\_\_ that something happens.
- 3 *but* to add something \_\_\_\_\_ or surprising.
- 4 *also* to add a new \_\_\_\_\_

**7c** Choose the correct words.

- 1 The waiters are friendly *and* / *but* they speak good English.
- 2 The weather's good in spring. It's *when* / *also* good in autumn.
- 3 You can go white-water rafting *but* / *and* you can't go kayaking.
- 4 A good time to visit Venice is in winter *also* / *when* it isn't crowded.
- 5 You can buy souvenirs in the hotel *but* / *also* the prices are often very high.
- 6 The beach is beautiful *when* / *and* it's *and* / *also* a good place to go snorkelling.

**8** Write a 'When to go' section for a guidebook about your country, area or city. Write about the weather, but also about some other useful facts (e.g. prices, crowds).