

Lesson 15: Talking About the Weather

Welcome to Lesson 15 of the Everyday English Speaking Course! In this lesson, you'll learn practical words and phrases for describing the current weather and temperature as well as predicting weather conditions in the future.

Conversation #1 – Summer Weather

Brad and Carol are neighbors living in South Carolina. Listen to this conversation during one day in June.

Carol: It's a beautiful day, isn't it?

Brad: Sure is! There's not a cloud in the sky.

Carol: And it's not too hot or humid either. I love it when it's warm with a light breeze.

Brad: Yeah. It's supposed to be a real scorcher tomorrow, though.

Carol: Oh really? That's perfect, because my kids have a pool party in the afternoon. I wonder if we're going to have a heat wave, like last summer.

Brad: I don't think so – they say we're gonna get some thunderstorms over the weekend, so the rain should cool things off.

Carol: That's good. Well, I'm off to the park – I'll catch you later!

Conversation Vocabulary & Phrases

To start, Carol says, "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?" – this is a common way to begin a casual conversation. Here are some additional phrases for asking about the weather:

- "How's the weather?"
- "What's the weather like today?"
- "It's a beautiful day, isn't it?"

- **“Terrible weather, isn't it?”**

These two questions, ending in “isn't it?” are ways to initiate a conversation because the other person will agree with your comment.

- **“What's the weather forecast?”**

The forecast means the prediction of the weather in the future

- **“What's the temperature?”**

- **“Is it hot/cold out?”**

The most basic way to describe current weather conditions are these phrases:

- **“It's...**

- **sunny**
- **cloudy**
- **rainy**
- **foggy**
- **windy**
- **humid**

And to describe the temperature, you can say:

- **“It's...**

- **boiling**
- **hot**
- **warm**
- **mild**
- **cool/chilly**
- **cold**
- **freezing**

- **“It's about 70 degrees.”**



You can also describe the weather more generally, with these typical adjectives:

- **Good weather**

- “The weather's... great / fantastic / gorgeous / perfect.”

- **Bad weather**

- “The weather's... terrible / lousy / awful.”

Here are a few common phrases for talking about hot and sunny weather:

- **"The sun is shining."**
- **"It sure is a scorcher today."**
a scorcher = a very hot day
- **"There isn't a cloud in the sky."**
- **"We're having a real heat wave."**
heat wave = a series of hot days
- **"I got a bad sunburn."**
sunburn = when your skin turns red and hurts because of too much sun
- **"Make sure to use sunscreen!"**
sunscreen protects your skin from a sunburn!
- **"I'm all sweaty."**
- **"It's unbearably hot."**
this means it's extremely hot (in a negative sense) and you are uncomfortable



Conversation #2 – Winter Weather

Lindsay, in New York, calls her cousin Joe, who's on vacation in Florida, in the month of January.

Lindsay: Hey Joe! How's the weather in Florida?

Joe: Terrible! We've had really heavy rain – it's pouring right now.

Lindsay: Ah, well at least it's warm! It's freezing here in New York, and we're expecting a blizzard tomorrow.

Joe: Eh, I wouldn't call it "warm" – it's mild, but when the wind picks up it can get pretty chilly.

Lindsay: That's too bad. I hope it clears up and the sun comes out so you can enjoy your vacation!

Joe: Yeah. The forecast says the rain will let up by tomorrow morning... so, how much snow are you expecting?

Lindsay: They say we're gonna get six to eight inches – I have a feeling school will be canceled.

Joe: Right, well, make sure to bundle up – and drive carefully on those icy roads.

Lindsay: I will. All right, Joe, I've gotta get ready for class. Enjoy the rest of your trip.

Joe: Thanks, Lindsay. Talk to you later.

Conversation Vocabulary & Phrases

In this dialogue, we hear various phrases about rainy, cloudy, windy, and snowy weather:

Phrases for talking about rain:

- **"It looks like rain."**
this means it is not yet raining, but it appears that it will rain soon
- **"It's drizzling."**
drizzling = raining lightly
- **"It's pouring."**
pouring = raining heavily
- **"I got caught in the rain."**
this means you were outside when it started to rain



- **"I hope the rain lets up."**
this means you hope the rain stops
- **"We had a downpour."**
a downpour is a sudden period of heavy rain
- **"We had a thunderstorm."**
a thunderstorm is heavy rain with thunder and lightning

- **“The heavy rain is causing flooding.”**

flooding = too much water causing damage to land and buildings



Phrases for talking about snow:

- **“It’s snowing.”**
- **“We’re having a snowstorm/blizzard.”**
- **“We’re expecting six to eight inches.”**
- **“The roads are icy/slippery.”**
- **“I slipped on the ice while walking to school.”**
when walking, the verb to use is “slipped”
- **“My car skidded on the icy road.”**
when driving, the verb to use is “skidded”



Phrases for talking about clouds:

- **“It’s gloomy.”**
this means the day is dark and depressing because the clouds are blocking the sun
- **“It’s foggy.”**
- **“It’s overcast.”**
overcast = the sky is completely covered with clouds
- **“It’s clearing up.”**
this means the clouds are starting to go away

- **“The sun is coming out.”**
this means the sun is starting to appear



Phrases for talking about wind:

- **“There's a light breeze.”**
this phrase describes a weak and pleasant wind
- **“The wind's picking up / dying down.”**
picking up = getting stronger; dying down = getting weaker
- **“The wind is blowing.”**
- **“There are gale-force winds.”**
gale-force winds = extremely strong winds
- **“A gust of wind almost knocked me over.”**

Finally, in both conversations, there are phrases describing the prediction of the weather in the future. We call this prediction the **weather forecast**, and there are a number of different ways to express it in English:

- **“The forecast says...**
 - it's going to rain tomorrow.
 - we're going to get six inches of snow.
 - it'll be sunny this weekend.
- **“It's supposed to...**
 - get a little warmer tomorrow.
 - clear up by the evening.
 - be hot and humid all week.
- **“They say...**
 - there will be a thunderstorm this afternoon.
 - it'll be chilly tomorrow.
 - we're going to have a heat wave.
- **“We're expecting...**
 - hot/cold/humid/mild/warm/chilly weather

- rain/snow/a thunderstorm/a blizzard
- **“There's a 90% chance of...**
 - rain/snow/thunderstorms

So, now you know a lot of different ways to describe the weather! Today's speaking challenge is to leave a message talking about:

- the current weather and temperature where you are
- the weather forecast in your area (if you don't know the forecast, look it up online at www.wunderground.com – just type your city into the search box)

[Click here](#) to record a message – don't be shy!