

# 13

## Weather

A

It's great here. Have had **unbroken sunshine**<sup>1</sup> ever since we arrived. We're having a wonderful time – though in the middle of the day it's just too **scorching hot**<sup>2</sup> to do anything but lie on the beach **soaking up the sunshine**<sup>3</sup>. This is the life!  
Anna

<sup>1</sup> only sunshine, no clouds in the sky

<sup>2</sup> extremely hot

<sup>3</sup> enjoying the sunshine

It's been **pouring with rain** all day. In fact I've never seen such **torrential rain**<sup>4</sup>! It's **freezing cold** in the tent - we all **got soaked**. Every half hour we look out of the tent hoping for a **break in the clouds**. In vain! We're going to a hotel next year!

It **rained heavily** all day yesterday but it's dry at the moment. There's **thick cloud**, though, and it certainly **looks like rain**<sup>5</sup>. Quite a **strong wind is blowing** too! Am glad we brought warm clothes!

<sup>4</sup> heavy rain <sup>5</sup> looks as if it is going to rain

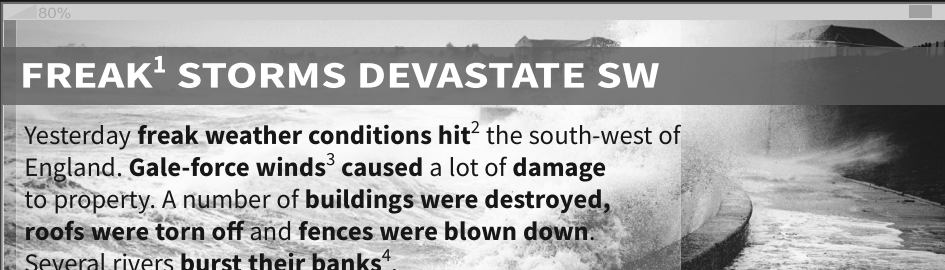
B

### Weather conditions

collocation	example	comment
weather deteriorates [opposite: improves]	The <b>weather</b> is likely to <b>deteriorate</b> later on today.	<i>Deteriorate</i> is quite formal – the <b>weather is getting worse</b> is more informal.
thick/dense fog patches of fog/mist a blanket of fog [literary] fog/mist comes down [opposite: lifts]	There is <b>thick fog</b> on the motorway. There are <b>patches of fog</b> on the east coast but these should <b>lift</b> by midday.	<i>Patches of fog/mist</i> are small areas of fog/mist, whereas a <i>blanket of fog/mist</i> is thicker and more extensive.
strong sun [opposite: weak]	Avoid going on the beach at midday when the <b>sun is strongest</b> .	
heavy rain (NOT strong-rain) driving rain	Road conditions are difficult because of the <b>driving rain</b> .	<i>driving rain</i> = rain falling fast and heavily
heavy/fresh/crisp/thick/driving snow	The <b>snow</b> is lovely and <b>crisp</b> this morning.	<i>crisp snow</i> = snow that is fresh and hard
hard frost	There will be a <b>hard frost</b> tonight.	opposite of a <i>hard frost</i> = a <i>light frost</i> (NOT a <i>soft frost</i> )
high/strong/light/biting winds the wind picks up [opposite: dies down] the wind blows/whistles	The <b>wind</b> was <b>light</b> this morning but it's <b>picking up</b> now and will be very <b>strong</b> by the evening. The <b>wind was whistling</b> through the trees.	<i>biting winds</i> = very cold winds If the wind picks up, it gets stronger.

C

### Extreme weather



**FREAK<sup>1</sup> STORMS DEVASTATE SW**

Yesterday **freak weather conditions hit**<sup>2</sup> the south-west of England. **Gale-force winds**<sup>3</sup> caused a lot of **damage** to property. A number of **buildings were destroyed**, **roofs were torn off** and **fences were blown down**. Several rivers **burst their banks**<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> very unusual or unexpected

<sup>2</sup> struck, badly affected

<sup>3</sup> extremely strong winds

<sup>4</sup> rivers flooded

## Exercises

### 13.1 Look at A and B opposite and complete these weather collocations.

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 crisp .....      | 5 a hard .....       |
| 2 patches of ..... | 6 torrential .....   |
| 3 strong .....     | 7 unbroken .....     |
| 4 a biting .....   | 8 a blanket of ..... |

### 13.2 Look at A and B opposite. Change the underlined words so that each sentence has the opposite meaning.

- There was a light wind yesterday.
- The wind picked up in the evening.
- The weather is likely to improve tomorrow.
- It was scorching hot here yesterday.
- There may be some light rain later on today.
- The mist came down at about midday.

### 13.3 Replace the underlined words in this message with collocations from the opposite page.

**Jill Hadfield** 26 May at 12:59

I wish I'd worn a warmer jacket. There's a very cold wind. At least it's not raining heavily today. We had such heavy rain yesterday. I wish I was sunbathing on a Mediterranean beach.

12

3

### 13.4 Answer these questions about the collocations on the opposite page.

- What might make a river burst its banks?
- What can you probably see if someone says, 'It looks like rain'?
- What kind of wind is a freak wind?
- Is it harder to drive if there's dense fog or if there are patches of fog?
- What kind of weather conditions have you got if the rain is described as driving rain?
- If we talk about severe weather conditions *hitting* or *striking* an area, what kind of image is created?
- What, apart from wind, can blow or whistle?
- Which of these verbs suggests most destruction and which least?  
The storm *destroyed* / *damaged* / *devastated* the town.

### 13.5 Look up these words in your dictionary. Note down two more collocations for each one.

wind

rain

snow



#### Over to you

Either listen to the weather forecast on an English-language TV or radio channel **or** go to the website [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather). (You can enter the name of your own country to get information about the weather there.)

Make a note of any other useful weather collocations that you find.