

TOPIC 11: WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Speaking Part 1

Frequently-Asked Questions

- ✓ What's the weather like in your country?
- ✓ Which season do you like best?
- ✓ Do you do different things in different weather?
- ✓ Does the weather affect people's lives in your country?
- ✓ What is the best/worst weather for traveling in?
- ✓ Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold country?
- ✓ What kind of weather do you dislike?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
tropical	/ˈtrɒp.ɪ.kəl/	from or relating to the area between the two tropics (nhiệt đới)
humid	/ˈhjuː.mɪd/	containing extremely small drops of water in the air (ẩm ướt)
scorching	/ˈskoː.tʃɪŋ/	very hot (nóng như thiêu như đốt)
freezing	/ˈfriː.zɪŋ/	extremely cold (rét cắt da, cắt thịt)
chill	/tʃɪl/	a feeling of cold (sự lạnh lẽo)
pouring	/ˈpɔː(r)ɪŋ/	raining heavily (mưa xối xả)

slippery	/'slɪpəri/	difficult to hold or to stand or move on, because it is smooth, wet (trơn trượt)
arid	/'ær.ɪd/	very dry and without enough rain for plants (khô hanh)
rain cats and dogs		to rain very heavily (mưa như trút nước)
hold up sb/sth		to delay someone or something (làm ngưng trệ)
congested	/kən'dʒestɪd/	crowded; full of traffic (tắc nghẽn)
adapt to sth	/ə'dæpt/	to change your ideas or behaviour to make them suitable for a new situation (thay đổi để thích nghi)
rainy	/'reɪ.ni/	raining a lot (mưa nhiều)
soak	/səʊk/	to make something or somebody very wet (làm ai/ cái gì ướt như chuột lột)
crisp	/krɪsp/	crisp weather is cold, dry, and bright (lạnh, khô)

Useful sentence structure

- ✓ I consider myself + (a cold weather person/ a hot weather lover).

Ex: I consider myself a hot weather lover.

- ✓ I can't stand it when the weather is/turns (+ adj)

Ex: I can't stand it when the weather is hot.

- ✓ If the weather is + adj, we will + (verb phrase).

Ex: If the weather is nice, we will go out for a walk.

- ✓ I'm a big fan of + (season) because + clause of reason.

Ex: I'm a big fan of winter because I can wear a lot of nice clothes.

PRACTICE

Q1: What's the weather like in your country each season?

Suggestions

- ✓ born in a tropical country → hot + humid
- ✓ Northern provinces → 4 seasons
- ✓ summer: scorching/ winter: freezing

Q1: What's the weather like in your country each season? (Sample)

Well, I was born and grew up in a tropical country, so it's pretty much hot and humid all year-round. However, in Northern cities, like Hanoi, we actually enjoy four distinct seasons. In summery months, it can get really scorching, and the weather is freezing in winter.

Q2: What type of weather do you like best?

Suggestions

- ✓ a cold weather person
- ✓ like crisp of autumn + chill of winter
- ✓ cold weather → wear lots of clothes

Q2: What type of weather do you like best? (Sample)

I'd consider myself a cold weather person. I love the crisp mornings at the end of autumn and the chill of winter. Maybe it's because we have to wear lots of clothes as the weather turns cold, and I love wearing sweaters and overcoats.

Q3: Does the weather ever affect what you do?

Suggestions

- ✓ rainy days

- ✓ roads → slippery → dangerous to drive
- ✓ get soaked

Q3: Does the weather ever affect what you do? (Sample)

I gotta say yes, especially when it rains. I mean, I cannot go out if it's pouring outside. The roads get slippery, so it's quite dangerous to drive. Besides, you will be soaked if you do decide to go out.

Q4: Does it rain a lot in your hometown?

Suggestions

- ✓ winter: scarcity of rain + arid weather
- ✓ summer: rain cats and dogs

Q4: Does it rain a lot in your hometown? (Sample)

Well, it depends on the season. In winter and spring, there is a scarcity of rain associated with the arid weather. In contrast, it is usually raining cats and dogs in summer, causing lots of troubles for people travelling on the road.

Q5: Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown?

Suggestions

- ✓ traffic → held up
- ✓ congested → difficult to escape

Q5: Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown? (Sample)

Yeah, of course. Traffic is often held up when it rains. All the roads are congested, and people find it difficult to escape from traffic jam. I would stay at home and watch TV rather than going out and being caught up in traffic.

Speaking Part 2

Cue card

Describe your favourite season in your country.

You should say

when that season is

what the weather is like at that time of year

how that season is different from other seasons and why it is your favourite season

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
excessive	/ek'ses.ɪv/	too much (quá nhiều, thừa thãi)
scenic	/'si:.nɪk/	having or allowing you to see beautiful natural features (ngập tràn vẻ đẹp thiên nhiên)
charming	/'tʃɑ:.mɪŋ/	pleasant and attractive (dễ chịu)
freshness	/'freʃ.nəs/	the quality of being pleasantly clean, pure or cool (tươi mới, sạch sẽ)
distinctive	/dɪ'stɪŋktɪv/	having a quality or characteristic that makes something different and easily noticed (khác biệt)
mild	/maɪld/	mild weather is not very cold or not as cold as usual (dịu nhẹ)
noticeable	/'nəʊ.tɪ.sə.bəl/	easy to see or recognize (dễ nhận thấy)
transition	/træn'zɪʃn/	the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another (sự chuyển giao)
harvest	/'hɑ:.vɪst/	to pick and collect crops, or to collect plants, animals, or fish to eat (thu hoạch)

sweltering	/'swel.tər.ɪŋ/	extremely and uncomfortably hot (nóng như thiêu đốt)
tolerable	/'tɒlərəbl/	that you can accept or bear, although unpleasant or painful (chịu được)
blossom	/'blɒsəm/	a flower or a mass of flowers, especially on a fruit tree or bush (hoa nở rộ)

PRACTICE

Describe your favourite season in your country.

You should say

when that season is

what the weather is like at that time of year

how that season is different from other seasons and why it is your favourite season

Sample

My favourite season is autumn and I love everything about it. Usually, it starts at the end of August in our country and lasts till the middle of October. The weather condition in our country is the best during autumn and you won't feel the excessive heat of summer or the cold wind of winter.

Actually, autumn is the time of year when the days start to get shorter again, the temperature cools and plants and trees start to shut down and prepare for winter. You might think this would be depressing, but I don't think so. I find the temperature much more comfortable in autumn and I can be a lot more active and do more things. The best thing about autumn is the way that the trees change colour. As autumn begins the leaves on trees transform from green to rich oranges.

I also like to be outside. In autumn there are still some mild days to be enjoyed and I like to stroll alongside the beach. Farmers also start harvesting crops and they become quite busy during this season. So, autumn is truly my favourite season.

Speaking Part 3

Frequently-asked questions

- ✓ How do the different seasons affect the lifestyle of people in your country?
- ✓ How do different seasons affect the way people feel?
- ✓ How does the climate of a place affect the kind of buildings that are built there?
- ✓ What are some ways to update the weather forecast?

Vocabulary

Word	IPA	Definition
update	/ʌp'deɪt/	to give someone the most recent information (cập nhật)
regarding	/rɪ'gɑː.dɪŋ/	about (liên quan tới)
automatically	/ˌɔːtə'mætɪkli/	without needing a person to operate controls (một cách tự động)
torrential	/tə'renʃl/	(of rain) falling in large amounts (mưa xối xả)
downpour	/'daʊnpɔː(r)/	a heavy fall of rain that often starts suddenly (mưa trút xuống)
irrigation	/ˌɪrɪ'geɪʃn/	the practice of supplying water to an area of land through pipes or channels so that crops will grow (sự tưới tiêu)
predict	/prɪ'dɪkt/	to say that something will happen in the future (dự báo)
construct	/kən'strʌkt/	to build something (xây dựng)
central heating	/ˌsen.trəl 'hiː.tɪŋ/	a system of heating buildings by warming air or water at one place and

		then sending it to different rooms in pipes (hệ thống sưởi trung tâm)
insulation	/ˌɪnsjuˈleɪʃn/	the act of protecting something with a material that prevents heat from passing through (sự cách nhiệt)
retain	/rɪˈteɪn/	to keep something (giữ lại)
airconditioned	/ˈeə kəndɪʃnd/	(of a building or car) having a system that cools and dries the air inside it (được trang bị điều hòa)

PRACTICE

Q1: What are some ways to update the weather forecast? (Sample)

Well, the most popular way in Vietnam is to watch the weather forecast on TV. The majority of Vietnamese keep updated on the weather prediction via national TV channels on a daily basis. And another way that most young people prefer is to check the weather on some websites, as they provide more updated information regarding the changes in weather than TV. Besides, people also download some weather apps on their phones.

Q2. What are some benefits of the weather forecast? (Sample)

The first advantage is that it helps people well prepare for unexpected weather conditions. For example, if they are aware that the next day there is a torrential downpour, they should bring an umbrella or raincoat to keep them dry. Another benefit is that it helps businesses and people plan outdoor activities. If it rains heavily on weekends, football matches will be cancelled. Besides, the weather forecast helps farmers plan for crop irrigation and protection.

Q3. How does the climate of a place affect the kind of buildings that are built there? (Sample)

Well, if the climate is hot, then the builders will construct the buildings to stay as cool as possible by making walls thicker which can help to avoid direct light from the Sun. And probably every room will be airconditioned. On the other hand, if you are in a cold climate

then you might find double insulation on the windows, or the houses will be built to retain heat as much as possible. Also, more central heating will be installed in colder climates.

HOMEWORK

Answer the following questions

Q1: How did people in the past predict the weather?

Q2: Do you think fighting global climate change is a governmental responsibility or the responsibility of individuals?

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