

COMMUNICATION

Warnings and extreme weather

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1053X

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and recall vocabulary related to extreme weather.
- I can give a simple warning and explain the risks of not following it.



Warm-up

Describe the picture below. What is dangerous about this kind of weather?

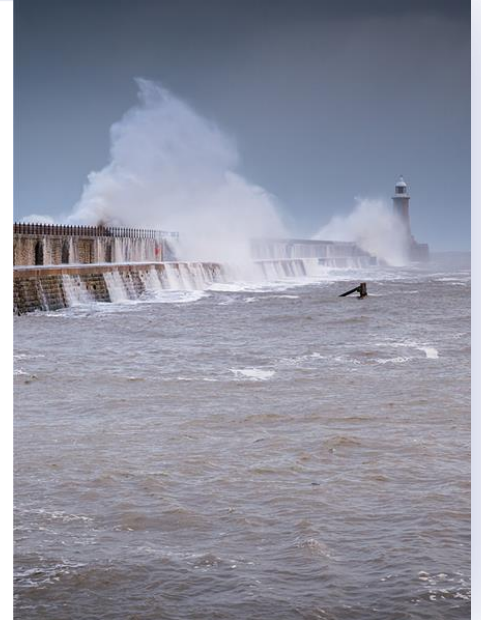


Weather report

Read the weather report and answer the questions below.

The Met office has issued a red weather warning for parts of the south-east and west of the country. There is a risk of extreme flooding in coastal areas.

- Heavy rain and strong winds of up to 53 km/hr are expected in the early afternoon as Storm Tina makes her way across Britain and Ireland.
- People are advised not to travel unless necessary. Many trains have been cancelled due to water on the tracks and passengers are advised to check online for the latest updates.
- There has been significant damage to property as a result of fallen trees and high floodwaters. Emergency services have warned residents in the worst affected areas to stay indoors until the warning has been lifted.



1. Why are heavy rains and strong winds expected?
2. Which parts of the country have been given a red weather warning?
3. What are people advised not to do?



Extreme weather conditions

Match the weather vocabulary to the correct picture.

1



2



3



4



5



6



a heavy rain

b flooding

c strong winds

d thunder and lightning

e heatwave

f freezing temperatures

storm



What usually happens during a **storm**?

hurricane



Where do **hurricanes** usually take place?

blizzard



How would you describe a **blizzard**?

Warnings

Read the sentences below and **answer the questions** in box with a partner.

**The government has advised people not to travel.
Emergency services have warned residents to stay indoors.**

**Watch out for fallen power lines on the road.
Take cover immediately!**

- Identify the **four verbs used to give warnings** in the sentences above.
- Which of these warnings are **direct** warnings, or **imperatives**?
- Which warning is the **strongest**? When might this warning be necessary?



Impact of extreme weather

Read the sentences below and answer the questions in box with a partner.

**Heavy rains caused extreme flooding in coastal areas.
The fire destroyed many downtown buildings.**

**The storm caused a lot of damage because we weren't prepared for it.
The roof of the town hall was badly damaged by strong winds.**

- Identify **three verbs** used to describe the impact of extreme weather.
- Look at sentences 3 and 4. Fill in the gaps below:
to _____ (a lot of) damage
to _____ (badly) _____ (by)...



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps using the words in the red box. Remember to use the correct verb form where necessary.

- 1 There was heavy rainfall during the night, which _____ extreme flooding in some coastal areas.
- 2 _____ for fallen power lines on the road!
- 3 The roof of my friend's house _____ badly _____ by the storm.
- 4 The weather report _____ passengers to check online for updates about the train schedule.
- 5 The emergency services _____ people not to travel, because the roads are too dangerous.

to advise
to watch out
to warn
to cause
to be damaged



Have you ever experienced extreme weather?

1. **Prepare** some answers to the questions below.
2. **Interview** a classmate in a breakout room about their experience with extreme weather.
3. **Share** one interesting fact about your partner with the class afterwards.



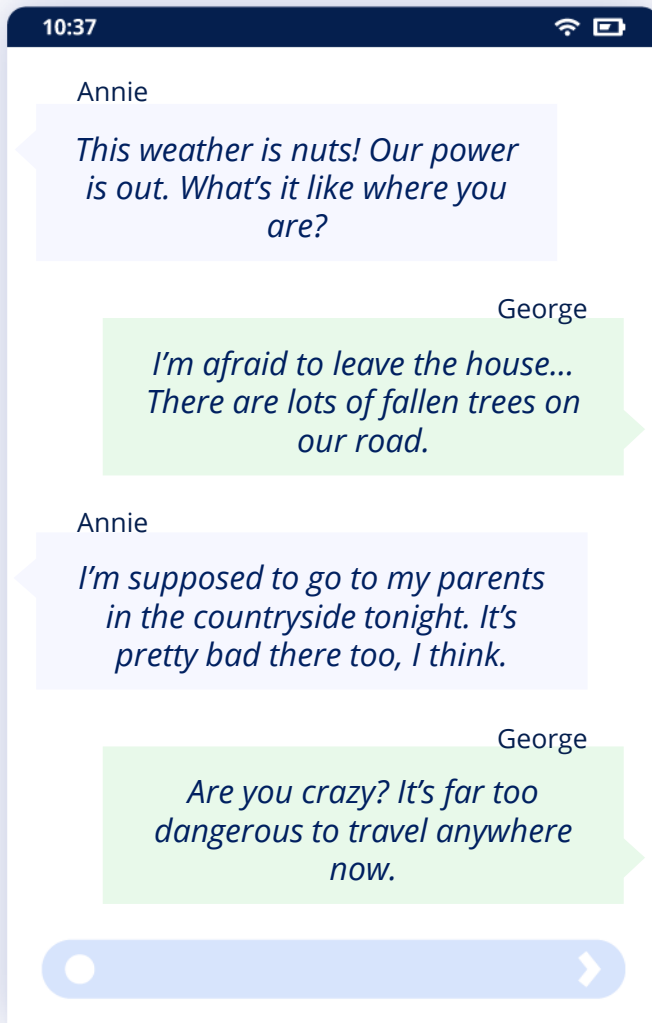
What is the **most extreme weather** you have ever experienced?

What happened? How did you **stay safe**?

What did the government **advise** people to do?
What did they **warn** people not to do?

What was the **impact** of the extreme weather?
What kind of **damage** did it cause?

A freak storm



Annie and George are good friends and live in the **same town**. Read their text messages and answer the questions in the boxes below.

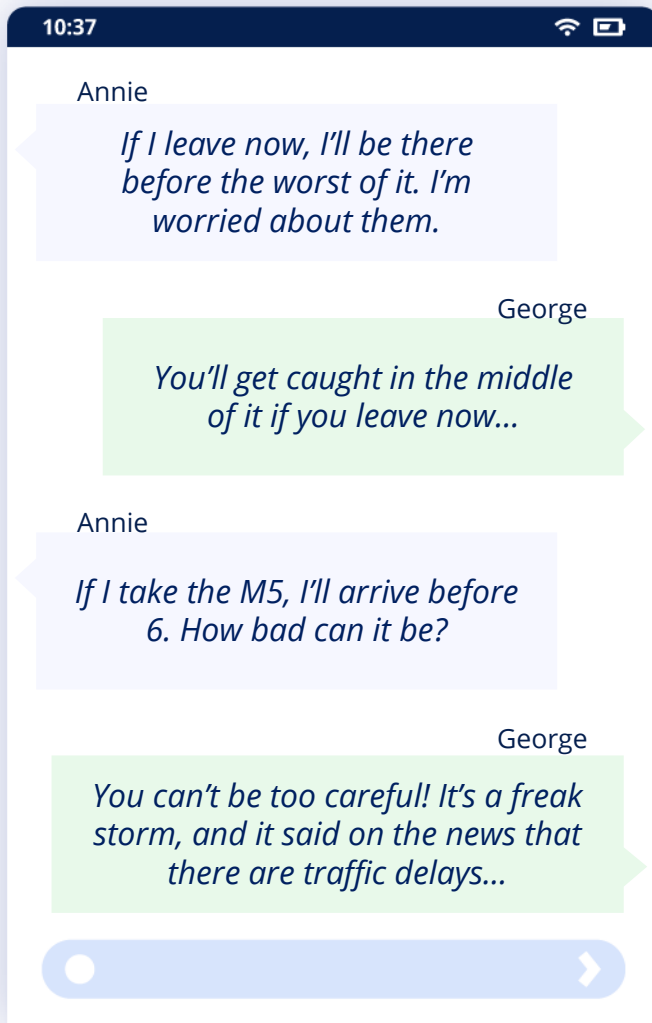
What are Annie and George texting about?

Why is George afraid to leave the house?

Why does George write: ***Are you crazy?***

What does Annie mean when she texts: ***This weather is nuts!***

A freak storm



Continue reading the messages between Annie and George and answer the questions in the boxes below.

What does George mean when he texts: ***You can't be too careful.***

Does Annie decide not to travel?

What is a ***freak storm***?

Do people expect bad weather in the days before a ***freak storm***?

1st conditional

Read these sentences taken from the text messages between Annie and George, then **answer the questions** in the blue boxes.

If I leave now, **I'll be there** before the worst of it.

If I take the M5, **I'll arrive** before 6.

You'll get caught in the middle of it if **you leave** now.

- Are the speakers talking about the present or the future?
- Is it **certain** that these things are going to happen?

- **if-clause:** _____ tense
(possible future situation)
- **result clause:** _____ tense
(result of this possible situation)



1st Conditional

1 The roads _____ dangerous if it snows heavily tonight.

a. are

b. won't be

c. would be

d. will be

2 I won't cycle to work if it _____ freezing in the morning!

a. will be

b. 's

c. won't be

d. isn't

3 If there _____ a storm tonight, the emergency services will be very busy.

a. could be

b. will be

c. would be

d. 's

4 We _____ able to go to the beach at the weekend if the weather forecast is right!

a. won't be

b. aren't

c. should

d. won't




Discuss

Have there ever been any famous storms in your country that people still talk about?



Is extreme weather becoming more or less frequent where you live?



End of the lesson

Idiom

Better safe than sorry!

Meaning: To be cautious, even in situations where something bad is not likely to happen.



Additional practice



Vocabulary review

Review vocabulary from the lesson. Which words or phrases are new? Which did you know already?



extreme flooding

to advise (not) to

strong winds

to warn (not) to

thunder and lightning

to cause

blizzard

to destroy

hurricane

to be (badly) damaged



Revision of modal verbs

Fill in the gaps using the verbs in the red box.

- 1 You _____ drive more carefully when it snows.
- 2 I _____ remember to check the weather forecast before I make plans!
- 3 You _____ go outside! It's too dangerous.
- 4 You _____ tell me! I'm not going anywhere until the storm is over.
- 5 If you live in a place where there is often extreme weather, you _____ be prepared all the time.

have to
must
can't
mustn't
don't have to



Discuss



There was nothing on the weather forecast about bad weather... It was a freak storm!

How do you usually check the weather forecast?

How often do you check the weather forecast?

Have you ever been caught in unexpected bad weather?





Match the report to the picture

1



a) Strong winds of up to 50kph in parts of the north and north-west. Reports of fallen trees and power lines causing traffic delays on the M5.

2



b) The government has warned all residents who have not yet left the area to stay put until the emergency services arrive.

3



c) Clear, sunny skies throughout the day. Highs of over 29 degrees with temperatures reaching 35 degrees in southern parts.

4



d) Reports of extreme flooding in coastal areas, causing significant damage to property.

1st conditional

Fill in the gaps, putting the verb in parentheses in the correct form.

- 1 The roads (be) _____ dangerous if it (snow) _____ heavily tonight.
- 2 If there (be) _____ any more rain, our house (flood) _____.
- 3 I (not, visit) _____ my friend tomorrow if there (be) _____ a red weather warning.
- 4 I (go) _____ nuts if the power (go) _____. I won't be able to watch TV or go on my laptop.
- 5 If she (leave) _____ now, she (arrive) _____ at the airport in time for her flight.



Role play

Student A plans to travel during very bad weather. Student B thinks it is too dangerous to travel. **Make notes** on your role before you begin. **Student A:** Where are you going? Why is it so important? **Student B:** Describe the weather conditions. Why is it too dangerous?

This weather is nuts!

Have you heard the weather report? It's a red weather warning!



Extreme weather conditions

- heavy rainfall
- strong winds
- extreme flooding
- freezing
- snow and ice

Verbs and phrases

- Watch out (for)...!
- It's far too...
- If you (do)..., you'll...
- to cause
- to damage
- to advise/warn



Discuss

Natural disasters can happen when we are not prepared or not able to effectively deal with the impact of extreme weather events. **Discuss this topic** using the prompts below.



Government policy

Warning systems

Buildings and
architecture

Emergency response



Answer key

P.4:

1. Storm Tina is making its way across Britain and Ireland 2. The south-east and west of the country 3. People are advised not to travel unless necessary.

P.5:

1. (c) 2. (f) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (e)

P.7:

1. to advise, to warn, to watch out for, to take cover 2. sentences 3 and 4 3. sentence 4

P.8:

1. to cause, to destroy, to damage 2. to cause (a lot of) damage, to be (badly) damaged

P.9:

1. caused 2. watch out 3. was (badly) damaged 4. advised/has advised 5. have warned

P. 11:

They are texting about a freak storm; George is afraid to leave the house because there are a lot of fallen trees; he says this because Annie wants to travel in the storm; Annie means that the weather is crazy

P. 12:

He means that she should be really careful; yes, she does; a powerful, unexpected storm; no, they do not expect bad weather before a freak storm



Answer key

P.13:

1. The speakers are talking about the future 2. No: these are possible future situations 3. present tense 4. Future simple tense

P.14:

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (a)

P.20:

1. have to 2. must 3. mustn't/can't 4. don't have to 5. have to/must

P.22:

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (b)

P.23:

1. will be; snows 2. 's/is; will flood 3. won't visit; 's/is 4. 'll go/will go; goes 5. leaves; she'll arrive/she will



Vocabulary

heavy rain

flooding

strong winds

thunder and lightning

heatwave

freezing temperatures

storm

blizzard

hurricane

to advise

to warn

to watch out (for)

to take cover

to cause

to damage

to destroy

a freak storm/freak weather

You can't be too careful!

nuts

It's far too (dangerous)



Summary

Vocabulary for describing extreme weather conditions

- heavy rain, flooding, strong winds, thunder and lightning, heatwave, freezing temperatures
- storm, blizzard, hurricane

Giving warnings about extreme weather

- to advise (not) to, to warn (not) to
- to watch out (for)
- to take cover

Describing the impact of extreme weather

- to cause, to destroy, to damage
- to cause (a lot of) damage, to be (badly) damaged

1st Conditional

- We use the 1st conditional to talk about a possible future situation and its result.
- Form: *If* + subject + present simple (possible future situation), future simple (result)
- We can change the order of the if-clause and result clause, but we must remove the comma.

