

Unit 7 Climate Change and Natural Disasters

■ Weather vocabulary

rain	drizzle shower downpour flood	cold	hail sleet snow snowflake blizzard
clouds	cloudy gloomy foggy overcast clear	wind	breeze blustery windy gale hurricane
temperature	hot warm cool cold freezing	other vocabulary	forecast drought lightning thunder rainbow

■ Wet and dry weather

In my country, the **weather** in spring is very changeable. It can be pleasant and dry, but we often have showers. It can get hot in the summer for two or three months, and in the cities it is often **humid**, especially before a **storm**. It's cooler on the coast, where there is usually a sea breeze. In autumn, we get some heavy rain, perhaps with thunder and lightning. In winter, it can be dry, sunny and **freezing** or grey and **damp**.

■ Weather-related idioms/phrases:

1. Every cloud has a silver lining.

ex. I'm sorry your business is going badly, but don't despair. Every cloud has a silver lining.

2. under a cloud

ex. Someone stole my money at work and now everyone is under a cloud of suspicion.

3. in a fog

ex. My mind is in a complete fog.

4. take a rain check

ex. I can't make it to dinner tonight, but can I take a rain check?

5. rain on one's parade

ex. I'm sorry to rain on your parade, but you're not allowed to have food or drinks in the theater.

6. It never rains but it pours.

ex. First of all, it was the car breaking down, then fire in the kitchen and now Ken's accident. It never rains but it pours.

7. snowed under with

ex. We're snowed under with the applications for the job.

8. Lightning never strikes twice.

ex. It's strange, but I feel safer since my apartment was robbed. I figure lightning never strikes the same place twice.

9. get wind of sth

ex. I don't want my colleagues to get wind of the fact that I'm leaving.

10. steal one's thunder

ex. I kept quiet about my pregnancy because Kate was getting married, and I didn't want to steal her thunder.

1 weather [ˈweðə] (n) 天氣

Ex. He goes out jogging **in all weathers**.

word family:

- The wood on the porch has weathered over the years.
- As a small new company, they did well to weather the recession.
- Her face was weathered by the sun.

2 humid [ˈhjuːmɪd] (a) 潮濕的

Ex. I'm used to the hot and humid climate.

word family:

- The temperature is 67 degrees with the humidity at 75%.
- If the air in the room is too dry, you can put a bowl of water near the radiator to humidify it. **OPP:**
- We bought a humidifier for the office. **OPP:**

word roots: 表「狀態」 hum =

humble (low+adj)

humiliate (low+V)

ex**hume** (out+ground)

in**hume** (in+ground)

3 storm [stɔːrm] (n) 暴風雨

Ex. 30 people were killed when storms **struck** the Mid-West.

word family:

- The movie **went down a storm.**
- Jazz **took** London and Paris **by storm** in the 1920s.
- The city was stormed by rebel forces.
- The sky was starting to look stormy.

4 freezing [ˈfriːzɪŋ] (a) 冰凍的、極冷的

Ex. After walking through the snow, my feet were freezing.

word family:

- The cold weather froze the water pipes. **OPP:**
- The government has been forced to cut spending and freeze public-sector wages.
- We skated over the frozen lake.

5 damp [dæmp] (a) 潮濕的

Ex. The shirt still feels a bit damp.

word family:

- The boxes were left outside in the damp.
- His hands were damped with sweat.
- I don't want to dampen his spirits.

cf.

moist

word focus: **wet**

- very wet:
- a little wet:
- when the air feels wet:

■ Climate change

Global warming is the gradual increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere, and is caused by harmful gases. Many environmentalists believe that most of this pollution is the result of human activities. Here are some of the **effects**:

- As the ice at the poles **melts**, sea levels could rise by almost a meter in the next century.
- There will be more extreme and unpredictable weather, e.g. heatwaves or floods.
- The earth will become even warmer because the rainforests are disappearing.
- Famine and disease will spread, and this will especially **affect** people in poor countries.

6 effect [ɪˈfekt] (n) 結果、影響

Ex. The radiation leak has had a disastrous effect **on** the environment.

word family:

- The new salary increases will take effect **from** January onwards.
- It's an extremely effective cure for a headache.
- If correctly administered, such drug can effect radical cures.

7 affect [əˈfekt] (v) 影響

Ex. The weather affected everyone's mood.

word family:

- It was an affecting drama.
- To all her problems she affected indifference.
- His affected manner annoyed her.
- He had a deep affection for his country.

8 melt [melt] (v) 融化 **cf.**

Ex. The butter melted in the frying pan.

word family:

Her anger melted away when she read the letter.

■ Types of disaster

Disasters related to extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, hurricanes, blizzards, droughts **occur** regularly. Events related to extremes of the earth's geology such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions occur less frequently, but result in major consequences when they happen. Tsunamis often result from earthquakes. Avalanches result from massive accumulations of snow.

Disasters are commonly categorized by their **origin**; natural or man-made. Most disasters investigated in the literature are natural disasters. Recently, however, industrial accidents have been categorized as disasters. The Bhopal gas release and the Chernobyl nuclear accident are two examples of a man-made disaster. Forest fires (initiated by man) may be another example.

Disasters may occur suddenly in time, or they may develop over a period of time. Most occur suddenly and perhaps unexpectedly. However, some events develop gradually, including some floods and famines related to drought.

9 disaster [dɪˈzæstə] (n) 災難

Ex. The oil spill was a disaster for Alaskan sea animals.

word family:

- The whole production was just a total disaster.
- Climate change could have disastrous effects on Earth.

10 occur [əˈkʊə] (v) 發生、存在

Ex. There were car pileups occurring on a four-lane expressway.

word family:

- The plant occurs naturally throughout South America.
- It occurs to me that it is a national holiday, so I can have a day off.
- Flooding in the area is a common occurrence.

word roots: 表「行為動作」 cur =

recur (again+run)

incur (in+run)

concur (together+run)

excursion (out+run+n)

concourse (together+run+n)

11 origin [ˈɒrədʒɪn] (n) 起源、由來

Ex. All meat should be clearly labeled with its **country/place of origin**.

word family:

- The land was returned to its original owner.
- The original painting is in a museum in London.
- I have to buy a wedding present and I want to find something really original.
- The building was originally used as a prison.
- Many Christmas traditions originated in Germany.

■ Prefixes (字首)

I Verb prefixes: un- and dis- with the meaning 'not'

unhappy	disappear
incorrect	disagree
impossible	disbelieve
illegal	undress
irregular	unwrap

II Other prefixes

prefix	meaning	examples
ad	to, toward	advance affectation
ob	against	obstinate oppose
anti	against	anti-war antibiotic
pre/ante	before	prevent
pro	for, forward	progress
con	together	contain conservation
de	away, down, not	departure defect depict
ab / abs	away	absent abstain
ex	former	ex-wife
ex	out of	extract
ambi / amphi	around, both	ambition amphibian
mal	bad	malfunction
mis	wrong	misunderstand
micro	small	microwave
multi	many	multi-purpose
sub	under	subdivision
post	after	postwar

semi / hemi	half	semiconductor	hemisphere
mono	one, single	monologue	
bi	two	bicycle	
tri	three	tripod	
quadr / quart	four	quarter	
pent	five	pentagon	
under	not enough	undercooked	
super	over	supervise survey	

