

Unit 7

■ Weather vocabulary

a) temperature

below freezing	boiling hot	mild
freezing cold	scorching	
chilly	heatwave	
cold spell	a scorcher	

b) cold

icy	hail	frost
slush	sleet	blizzard
		flurry

c) clouds

clear	(partly) cloudy	foggy
	overcast	smog
	gloomy	

d) wind

breeze	gale	hurricane
		typhoon
		cyclone

e) rain

drizzle	shower	downpour
		flood

■ 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.

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.

11. A storm in a teacup.

ex. The couple argued about who should do the dishes. It was just a storm in a teacup.

12. the calm before the storm

ex. The meeting was going smoothly, but it was just the calm before the storm because the disagreement started soon after.

1 weather (n) 天氣

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

word family:

- The paint on the outside walls has weathered badly.
- Wind and sun had weathered his face.
- An improvement in the economy is helping us weather the storm.

2 humid (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:**

3 freezing (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.

4 damp (a) 潮濕的

Ex. My hair is still a bit damp.

word family:

- I could feel the dampness of the walls.
- He dampened a cloth with alcohol before wiping the table down.

cf.

moist

word focus: **wet**

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

■ Exports / imports

Nowadays an increasing amount of cargo is being brought from overseas or sent abroad as countries exchange **commodities**, in other words, become **involved** in trade. This freight is **packed** into/in large **containers** and then hauled by road, air, or ship to its destination. If the cargo is fragile, then it must be handled with care and cushioned in reinforced packaging to protect it from damage. Often, cargo that is going to be transported is stored temporarily in a warehouse before being loaded onto a vehicle. If the shipment is being exported, then each commodity and its quantity or weight must be declared to the customs officials of the receiving country.

5 commodity (n) 商品

Ex. Oil is a commodity in high demand.

synonyms:

- There's a 20% discount on all electrical goods till the end of the week.
- Shoppers complained about poor quality merchandise and high prices.

6 **involve** (v) 包含、牽涉

Ex. Running your own business usually involves working long hours.

word family:

- I don't want to **get involved in** their problems.
- The plot of the movie was so involved that none of us understood it.
- The city councilor denied that he had any direct involvement in the deal.

word roots: 表「行為動作」volve =

evolve (out+roll)

ex. Did humans evolve from apes?

devolve (down+roll)

ex. A good manager must know how to devolve responsibility downwards.

revolve (again+roll)

ex. The earth revolves around the sun.

7 pack (v) 裝(箱)、包裝 **OPP:**

Ex. He packed a small **bag/suitcase** for the weekend.

word family:

- Fans packed the stadium to watch the final match.
- He bought a pack of cigarettes at a convenience store.
- The postman has just delivered a package for you.
- a package of cookies = a _____ of biscuits
- The hotel, airfare and museum fees are all part of our vacation package.
- The organic olives are packaged in recycled glass containers.

8 **container** (n) 容器

Ex. The tea leaves come in a small metal container.

word family:

- The movie contains something for both children and adults.
- I couldn't contain my excitement any longer.
- Doctors are struggling to contain the epidemic.

word roots: 表「行為動作」tain =

detain (away+hold)

ex. Police detained two suspects for questioning.

abstain (away+hold)

ex. He took a vow to abstain from alcohol.

attain (to+hold)

ex. She attained her ideal weight after going on a diet for a year.

obtain (to+hold)

ex. You will need to obtain permission if you want to do that.

■ Property

For most people, buying a **residence** is the most important purchase they will make. Because it is so expensive to buy a single-family house or just an apartment within a building, buyers usually finance their purchase by making a down payment on a percentage of the agreed price and taking out a mortgage on the remaining balance. Most people arrange the buying and selling through a real estate agent, or realtor, who receives a fee or commission. Usually a prospective buyer makes an offer for a property and if they make a deal with the owner, he or she accepts the offer. Some people buy property as an investment. Typically they will renovate and then rent out or **lease** the property, either furnished or unfurnished, through a realtor. These include commercial spaces as well as residential housing, both downtown and in the suburbs. The landlord signs a contract with the tenant(s), which includes details about the rights and responsibilities of each party.

9 property (n) 所有物、房產

Ex. He left most of his property to his children. [U]

word family:

➤ Buying a property is a complicated business.

word choices: **possessions, belongings, personal effects**

➤ He sold all his possessions and left his country.

➤ She put a few of **personal belongings** in an overnight bag.

➤ The insurance policy covers baggage and personal effects – up to NTDS\$ 40,000 per person.

10 residence (n) 住所

Ex. Tina has **permanent residence** in the UK, but she is still a US citizen. [U]

word family:

➤ The use of the gym is for the hotel residents only.

➤ The agency deals with both residential and commercial property.

➤ Daniel was born in Taiwan but resides in Canada now.

11 lease (n) 租約

Ex. He **signed** a two-year lease when he moved into the flat.

The landlord refused to **renew** his lease.

The 10-year lease **expired** in 2015.

Do you understand all **the terms of** the lease?

word choices: **rent, hire, lease**

- He rents the apartment out to female students.
- You can hire a car at the airport.
- The building was leased to a health club.

■ **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