

Singing in the rain:  
Gene Kelly in  
the famous musical

# THE WEATHER

In the English-speaking world, you will often hear conversations like this: "Morning! Lovely day, isn't it?" — "Yes, lovely. But I heard there might be some rain this afternoon." Together with health, holidays and the family, the weather is one of the most important topics for small talk, and it is good to have a large vocabulary from which to choose.

## 1. BLOWING HOT AND COLD

Order these adjectives from the coldest to the hottest.

chilly • fresh • hot • icy • mild • arctic • sweltering

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## 2. UNDER THE WEATHER

Match the definitions on the left to the words on the right.

- a. cold, but not too cold
- b. warm and uncomfortable
- c. very light rain
- d. dirty snow that is melting
- e. extremely hot
- f. a mix of rain and snow

- 1. scorching
- 2. slush
- 3. chilly
- 4. sleet
- 5. muggy
- 6. drizzle

## 3. BRAVING THE ELEMENTS

Make six new words by putting two words together (one from each box).

down • hail • heat • over • snow • thunder

cast • drift • pour • stones • storm • wave

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## 4. THE HEAT IS ON

Which words are missing from these four short dialogues? Some letters are given.

- a. Bit chilly today, isn't it?  
It's absolutely f \_ \_ \_ z \_ \_ g.
- b. Gosh, it's hot, isn't it?  
Yes, it's b \_ \_ l \_ \_ g.
- c. What a heavy shower!  
Yes, it's really p \_ \_ r \_ \_ g.
- d. Isn't it close today?  
Yes, it's s \_ \_ f l \_ \_ g.

## 5. WIND OF CHANGE

Many weather expressions can also be used in a figurative sense. Which words in the brackets are correct?

- a. I'm [rained under — snowed under] with work.
- b. He was greeted with [thunderous — stormy] applause.
- c. The article caused a [storm — whirlwind] of protest.
- d. Our plan was met with a [foggy — frosty] silence.

Answers