WORD POWER

For more exercises on this topic, see Spotlight plus 11-12/2005

Floods, droughts, hurricanes and other effects of climate change have been much in the news lately. Even under normal conditions, however, hardly a day goes by when we don't talk about the weather.

1. EXTREME CONDITIONS

Match the nouns on the right to their definitions on the left.

- a) a long period of no rain
- b) a flash of light caused by electricity
- c) a loud noise you hear during a storm
- d) hard balls of ice that fall from the sky
- e) a period of unusually hot weather
- f) cloudy air that makes it difficult to see
- 1. heatwave
- 3. fog
- 4. thunder
- 5. liahtnina
- 6. drought



2. SNOWED UNDER

Complete the weather idioms below using the words in the box.

cloud • frosty • mists • storm • sunny • wind

a) The management's plans were greeted with a _____ of protest.

b) We had planned a surprise party for Tony's birthday, but he got _

c) Jane's not a bad teacher. You shouldn't let your personal feelings your judgement.

d) Nobody knows why Stonehenge was built. Its origins are lost in the _ of time.

e) The architect's proposal for the new stadium met with a ____

After a decade of recession, prospects are _____ again for the country's economy.

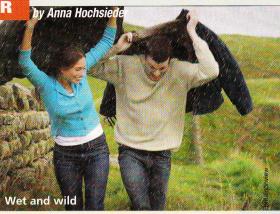
3. COME RAIN OR SHINE

Match the sentence halves to create five common weather sayings.

- a) It never rains
- b) Lightning never strikes twice
- c) Red sky at night
- d) One swallow
- e) Make hay

- 1. in the same place.
- 2. while the sun shines.
- 3. does not make a summer.
- 4. but it pours.
- 5. (is the) shepherd's delight.

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4. STORMY WEATHER

A gentle breeze, or a disastrous hurricane? Reorder the letters to find some more words for wind conditions.

- a) A storm with strong winds and lots of snow is a ZAZBLIRD.
- b) A twisting mass of air that causes a lot of damage is a RONTODA. __
- c) A very strong wind, often accompanied by rain, is a LEAG. _
- d) A violent storm in the Pacific Ocean is a PHOTONY.

5. WHAT A SCORCHER!

We often use informal language to chat about the weather. Choose the suitable word in colour to respond to the following statements.

- a) It's sweltering! Yes, it's hot/chilly, isn't
- b) Look! It's chucking it down! My goodness! What a downpour/shower!
- Bit nippy today, isn't it? Yes. It's much too cold/mild for May.
- d) It's horribly muggy outside. Mmm, it is rather humid/overcast.
- Isn't it blowy? Yes, a bit too windy/ foggy for my taste.