

# EPISODE 40 LEVEL A1.2/A2.1

# **READING COMPREHENSION**



# **POLISH WEATHER**

I don't really like Polish weather.

In winter, it's always cold and dark. For example, it has been really **freezing cold** ( = very cold) this week and my car didn't start yesterday. In winter the

sky is always **overcast** ( = cloudy) and it **sleets** ( = it snows and rains at the same time) from
time to time. Sometimes we have **blizzards** ( = storms with snow and strong winds) and then
people drive very slowly and everybody is late for work.

In summer, on the other hand, it's **boiling hot** ( = very hot) and **thunderstorms** ( = storms with lightning) are quite common. We often have **gales** ( = very strong winds) and sometimes it **hails** ( = small, hard balls of ice fall down from the sky).

I don't know if Polish weather is the worst in the world, but people always feel unhappy with it.

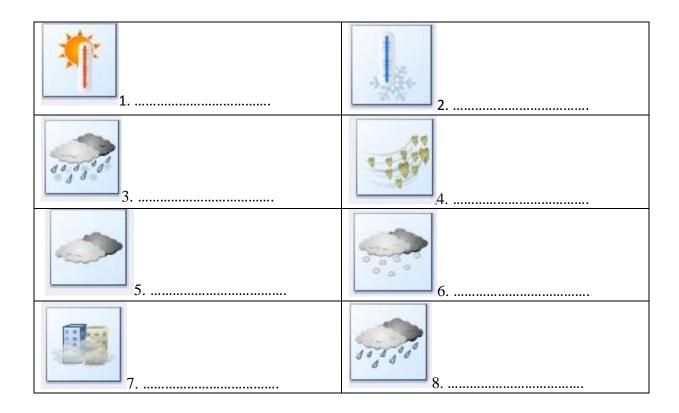
### More contexts for the new words:

- I really like **foggy** weather. ( = I like when the "clouds" are very close to the ground)
- It was **pouring with rain** yesterday. ( = It was raining heavily yesterday)
- There was not enough rain in July which resulted in **drought**. ( = the situation which happens when there is no rain for a long time)



### **EXERCISE 1**

Use words from the lesson to describe the pictograms. If you need help, all the expressions you need are below the table.



boiling hot – fog - freezing cold – gale – hail – overcast - pouring with rain - sleet



### **EXERCISE 2**

Answer the questions, using words from the lesson.

- 1. Which type of weather is your favourite?
- 2. Which type of weather do you hate most?
- 3. Do you agree that the weather in Poland is always terrible? Why/ why not?





The sentence below contains Present Perfect:

It has been really freezing this week.

How do we make it? As you can see, it consists of two parts: "have" (we use "has" with he, she, it) and past participle (be, was, been; go went, gone; see, saw, seen; know, knew, known) form of the verb.

Look at more examples:

I have known him for many years. She has been there many times. They have seen this film twice.

Two most popular uses of this tense are:

- to talk about situations which started in the past and continue till now
- to talk about life experience.





A/ What's the weather like at the seaside? B/ Terrible. It's **RAINING CATS AND DOGS**.

If it's raining cats and dogs, there is lots of rain.

## PHRASAL VERBS CLOSE-UP



1. If it BRIGHTENS UP, the sky becomes lighter and the sun starts to shine.

I think the sky's brightening up.

2. If it CLEARS UP, it stops being rainy or cloudy.

It's supposed to **clear up** tonight.



### **EXERCISE 3**

Decide if these sentences are true or false. Correct the false ones.

- 1. 'Brighten up' and 'clear up' have similar meanings.
- 2. Most people are unhappy if it brightens up.
- 3. If it's raining cats and dogs, you should definitely take an umbrella.

### **NEWS**



#### **METEOROPATHY**

Do you **feel blue** when the sky is overcast and it's raining cats and dogs? Do you **cheer up** the second it brightens up? If so, you might be suffering from meteoropathy. Such people often experience mood changes due to weather changes. The mood changes might be very **subtle**, for example if you want to smile when you see the sun, or they might be quite **severe**, like if you suffer from chronic migraines when air pressure drops. If they start making your life difficult, it might be a good idea to visit a doctor and check if there is some kind of medication to stop you feeling **miserable**.

#### **GLOSSARY**

- to feel blue to feel sad
- to cheer up to become happy again
- subtle delicate
- severe serious
- miserable very bad

### **KEY TO EXERCISES**

#### Ex.1

- 1. boiling hot
- 2. freezing cold
- 3. sleet
- 4. gale
- 5. overcast
- 6. hail
- 7. fog
- 8. pouring with rain

### Ex.3

- 1. True
- 2. False most people are happy.
- 3. True