



Climate/Weather

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Terminology



- ❖ Weather – is more about short term changes
- ❖ Climate – is more about longer term changes

“Weather tells you what to wear each day.

Climate tells you what types of clothes to have in your wardrobe!”

Collocations for Climate

- harsh/inhospitable (=uncomfortable and difficult to live in)
- temperate/mild (= not too hot/ not too cold)
- warm/hot/ tropical (= very hot and wet)
- humid (=with hot and wet air)
- human-induced (influenced by human activities)

Collocations for Weather

- extreme/hostile
- changeable
- good/nice/lovely
- glorious/perfect/beautiful
- atrocious (=very bad or unpleasant)
- awful/dreadful/ terrible
- dismal, dreary (=dull, depressing)
- fine/ sunny/ fair/ dry
- wet/rainy
- windy/stormy

We can also describe the weather as ...

- nippy
- chilly (quite cold)
- bone dry (very dry)

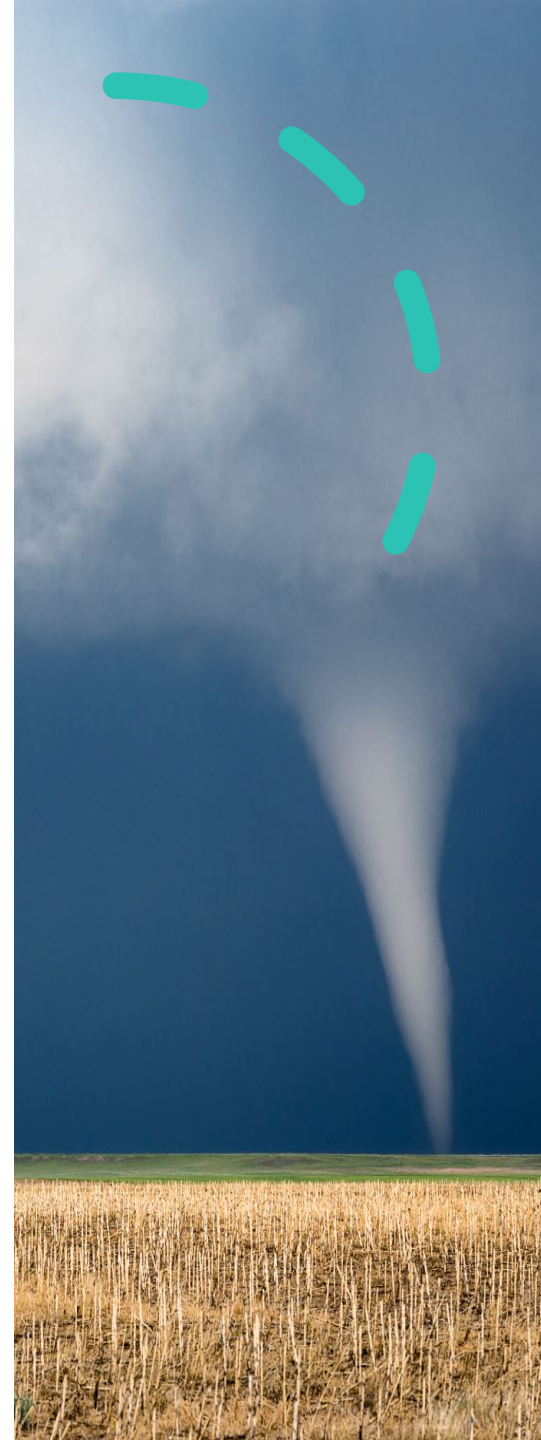


Vocabulary

- ❖ **Global warming** – an increase in the global average temperature on earth
- ❖ **Climate change** – the change in general weather conditions on the earth over a long period of time.
- ❖ **Gas emissions** – the production of gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄)

To **reduce/ lower/ cut back on/ offset** emissions

- ❖ **The Greenhouse effect** – greenhouse gases trap heat from the sun in the atmosphere. The heat cannot escape; as result, the planet gets hotter.



Vocabulary

- **fossil fuels** – non-renewable fuels, e.g. coal, carbon, oil, gas
- **deforestation** – the cutting down of trees on a large scale
- **habitats** – where animals and plants live
- **ecosystem** – a community of living things connected to their environment
- **carbon footprint** – The amount of greenhouse gases produced from any person or organisation's activity.

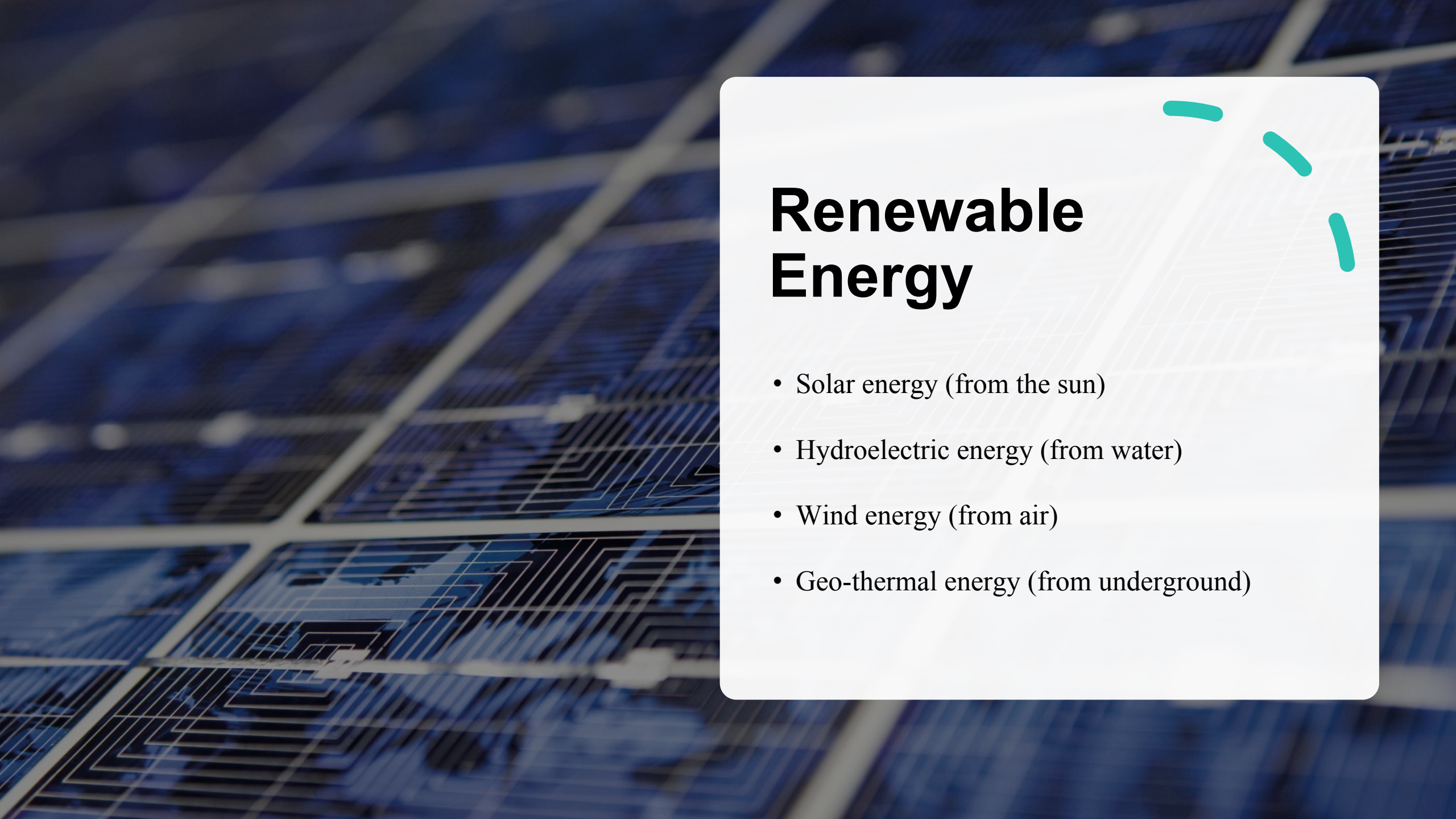
"I can reduce my carbon footprint by using less electricity at home."



Vocabulary

- **renewable** energies - water (hydro), wind, sun (solar)
- **biodegradable** waste = *waste that naturally decomposes.*
- A landfill (n.) (C) = *a place where rubbish is dumped and buried*
- Try to **solve / tackle / address** climate change / global warming
e.g., “We need to tackle climate change head on” (=directly)
- **to mitigate** climate change (=reduce, alleviate, minimise)
- **environmentally-friendly**: not harmful to the environment
e.g., Electric cars are more environmentally-friendly than those that run on petrol.
- **gas guzzler** (informal): a vehicle that uses a lot of fuel
e.g., For many people, a large car is a status symbol, and they aren’t concerned about the harm their gas guzzler is doing to the environment.





Renewable Energy

- Solar energy (from the sun)
- Hydroelectric energy (from water)
- Wind energy (from air)
- Geo-thermal energy (from underground)

Pollution

All words (countable nouns) meaning waste or things we throw away:

- waste
- rubbish (UK)
- garbage (US)
- debris
- trash (US)
- litter (UK)
- junk
- refuse



The Solutions to Climate Change

- segregate our rubbish (to separate) into

□ The 3 Rs: Recycle – Reduce – Reuse

- **opt for** public transport
- avoid travel
- reduce the demand for livestock and cattle.
- shop locally
- consume less, **whether it be** for.....
- be a victim of fast fashion
- use energy saving bulbs

- save energy/ electricity/ water
- save water, by not leaving the tap running unnecessarily
- do some volunteer work
- **run a campaign** to raise awareness
- clean up beaches
- participate in a beach clean-up
- reduce plastic wastes
- protect wildlife habitats

How can governments tackle this issue?

- **Promote the use of** electric cars – and public transport
- **Raise awareness** of the need to recycle
- **Sensitise** people to the importance of using renewable energy
- **Incentivise** (=to motivate) people to recycle
- **Incentivise** (=to motivate) companies to use renewable/ sustainable energy (solar (sun), hydro (water), wind...geothermal..)
- Set **zero-carbon** energy targets
- Reduce their carbon footprint to '**net zero**'
- Carry out research on **plastic substitutes** (research on biodegradable alternatives)
- **Set up initiatives** to protect.... wildlife / natural habitats / forests / endangered species
- **Implement policies** to protect...
- **Put measures in place** to protect...
- **Impose restrictions** on....
- Put in place **strict / stringent policies**

How can we protect the environment?

To protect the environment, we can use phrases:

- I am careful to _____
- I am careful to recycle rubbish and waste at home
- I strive *not* to _____
- I strive *not* to use disposable plastic, such as coffee cups in Starbucks
- I endeavour to _____
- I endeavour to turn off the lights in my home
- I make an effort to _____
- I make an effort to turn taps off when possible

I pick up discarded rubbish *sometimes* OR ...

- ☐ ...from time to time
- ☐ ...once in a while
- ☐ ...every now and then
- ☐ ...at times
 - I like to **do my bit** = to play my part = to contribute
 - We should **steer clear of**..... = *to avoid*
 - We should **be wary of** = *be careful and cautious with.*

Advanced Collocations

The following collocations use different adjectives meaning 'big'

- ✓ An insurmountable challenge
- ✓ A serious impact
- ✓ An urgent need
- ✓ A drastic change/action

Here are some examples with these collocations.

- *Reducing Global Warming is not an insurmountable challenge.*
- *Deforestation is having a serious impact on Climate Change.*
- *There is an urgent need to take drastic action to reduce global warming.*

Phrasal Verbs

- To **cut down on** coal = to reduce

*E.g., If we are going to be carbon neutral by 2030, we need to **cut down on** our use of coal immediately.*

- To **cut back on** (using) coal = to reduce
- To **phase out** our use of carbon = to reduce slowly

*E.g., There is an urgent need to **cut back on** our use of fossil fuels.*

*Slowly **phasing them out** is not enough, we must do it now.*

- To **give up** our way of life = to stop doing/having it

*E.g., We need to **give up** our excessive use of coal, water, and fossil fuels.*

Idiomatic Expressions

❑ **To do your bit** = to make a contribution

E.g., You can do your bit by eating less meat

❑ **To play your part** = to make a contribution

E.g., You can play your part by turning off the lights when you leave a room

- To **kick the can down the road** = to delay making a difficult decision
- To **grapple with** an issue/problem/difficulty = to try hard to solve it

E.g., Governments are grappling with this issue of climate change

- To **face a problem head on** = to deal with a problem directly
- To **put our heads in the sand** = ignore (a problem)
- To **make a dent in a problem** = to make a small impact

Unless we make some radical changes in how we source energy, we won't even make a dent in this problem.

IDIOMS

- **To get out of hand** = *to be out of control*
- **To be in dire straits** = to be in trouble
- **To be in deep water** = to be in trouble
- **The tip of the iceberg** = the beginning of the problem
- **To weather the storm** = to survive difficult times

PART 1

- What is the weather like in your country?
- Do you like the weather in your country?
- Is the weather the same in all parts of your country?
- Are there any problems with the climate in your country?
- Does the weather ever affect the way you feel?
- What's the weather like in your country?
- Does the weather affect your mood?
- How do rainy days make you feel?
- What's your favourite season of the year?
- What do you like to do when it's hot?
- What do you usually do in the winter?
- How many seasons does your country have?



PART 2

Describe your favourite season.

You should say:

- what the season is and when it occurs
- what the weather is like during this season
- what your typical activities are during this season
- and explain why it is your favourite season.





PART 2

Describe a childhood memory of a weather phenomenon.

You should say:

- how old you were
- what was the weather phenomenon
- what made you remember it
- and say if it is a happy or a sad memory.

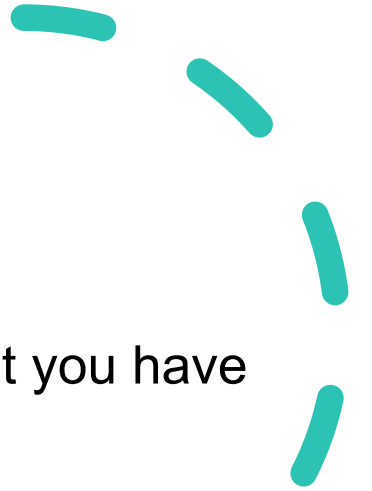


PART 2

Describe a memorable weather event you have experienced in your life.

You should say:

- when and where it happened
- what the weather event was
- how it affected you or people around you
- and why it was memorable for you





PART 2

Describe your favourite time of the year.

You should say:

- when this time is.
- what the weather is like at this time.
- what you usually do at this time
- and explain why it is your favorite time of the year.

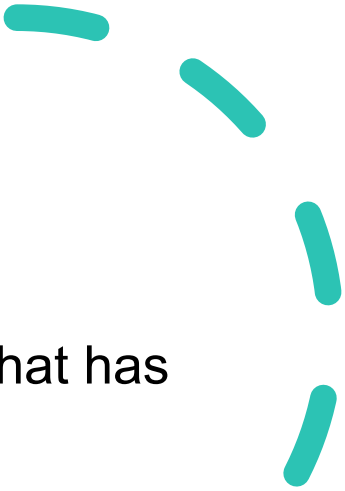


PART 2

Describe an unusually hot or cold season in your country.

You should say:

- what season it was
- how long it lasted
- how you coped with the extreme temperature
- and say how you felt about it.



PART 2

Describe an environmental problem that has been in the news.

You should say:

- when this was
- where the event happened
- what actually took place
- and say how you felt about this problem.

Part 3

- How do different seasons affect the way people feel?
- Do you think weather forecasts are accurate? Why or why not?
- How does weather affect people's daily routines?
- What examples are there of how we damage the natural world?
- What are some ways people can adapt to extreme weather conditions?
- In which ways do we respond well to environmental problems?
- How can governments and societies address the challenges posed by changing weather patterns?
- How can we teach children about the importance of protecting the environment?
- Do you think there will be more environmental disasters caused by humans in the future?
- What do you think is the main danger the world faces in terms of the environment?
- Which environmental problems are people most concerned about in your country?
- Do you think fighting global climate change is a governmental responsibility or the responsibility of individuals?

“Save the bees

Protect the
trees

! Clean the seas”

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