

### 3 READING & VOCABULARY

the weather

- a Look at the cartoon. What does it say about American weather? Would it be true about your country?



- b Read the article once. Where do the Santa Ana winds blow? What affect do the Santa Ana winds have on people?
- c Read the article again and mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false). Underline the sentence or part of the article that gives you the answer.

- 1 Professor Palinkas is sure that the amount of time spent in cold temperatures has the biggest effect on a person's mood.
  - 2 People's hormones are easily affected by the weather.
  - 3 In 2008, a number of Canadians who committed crimes blamed them on the huge amount of snow that fell.
  - 4 The number of serious crimes decreases during a period of extreme heat.
  - 5 Some experts predict that global warming will increase the number of serious crimes committed in the US.
  - 6 Spring weather can negatively affect a person's creativity.
- d Look at the **highlighted** phrases related to the weather. With a partner, say what you think they mean.
- e ➤ p.156 **Vocabulary Bank** *Weather*.
- f Does weather affect people's moods in your country? How?

#### Glossary

**drive someone nuts** to make someone very angry or crazy  
**electrical charge** a unit of matter that expresses the amount of electricity held by an object  
**positive / negative ion** an atom or a group of atoms that has an electric charge  
**hot air** statements that sound impressive but have no real meaning or truth  
**susceptible** very likely to be influenced, harmed, or affected by someone or something  
**shovelfuls (of snow)** the amount that a shovel can hold  
**make tempers boil** to cause people to become angry  
**cognition** the process by which knowledge and understanding is developed in the mind

## Can the Weather Drive You Crazy?

- 1 "There was a **desert wind** blowing... it was one of those hot dry Santa Anas that come down through the mountain passes and curl your hair and make your nerves jump and your skin itch. On nights like that every party ends in a fight." Raymond Chandler's 1938 short story "Red
- 5 Wind" captures the infamous "devil winds" of Los Angeles that at times seem to drive people a little nuts. But if you think that's just a lot of hot air, think again. "Human responses to the Santa Anas have been shown to be generally unfavorable – for example, people tend to become irritable," says Dennis Driscoll, a professor at Texas A&M University.
- 10 "We don't know why. It may have something to do with the electrical charges and an increase in positive ions. At least, that's the theory." What else can the weather do to your mood? Here's a **forecast**:

**Cold Snap:** Lawrence Palinkas, professor at the University of Southern California, has studied the impact of extremely cold

- 15 temperatures on Antarctic researchers. "We've noticed an increase in anger and irritability after prolonged exposure," he says, although he believes isolation and confinement play a part. "In addition, thyroid hormones are particularly susceptible to **changes in temperature**. People sometimes exhibit symptoms of depression, short-term
- 20 memory loss, and anxiety."

And last year, some Canadian newspapers started using the term **snow**

- 25 **rage**. "At the end of March 2008, we'd had over 16 feet of snow," says Catherine Viel, with the Québec City Police. "During that month, we had several incidents – 911 calls, a guy punching a neighbor over a

**Hot-headed:** **Heat waves** really can make tempers boil. In fact, from 1950 to 1995, rates of serious assaults were higher during hotter years, according to research in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*

- 30 in 1997. The authors suggest that uncomfortably high temperatures increase annoyance-provoked crimes, in which the primary goal is to hurt someone. (Crimes like burglary, where the incentive is money, did not increase.) They predicted at least 115,000 additional serious and fatal assaults a year in the United States due to **global warming**.

**Spring Fever:** "We studied about 600 people and found that in springtime, sunny days and warm weather seem to boost mood and have a broadening effect on cognition, basically opening the mind to new ideas," says Matthew Keller, assistant professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder. "You just have to get outside."





## 4 PRONUNCIATION

### vowel sounds

#### Spelling and pronunciation

Most vowels, or combinations of vowels, can be pronounced in more than one way. If you are unsure what the vowel sound is in a new word, check with your dictionary.

a Look at the groups of words below and **circle** the word you think is different.

- 1 blow snow showers below
- 2 weather sweat heavy heat
- 3 drizzle blizzard chilly mild
- 4 hard warm dark garden
- 5 flood moon soon loose
- 6 fought ought drought brought
- 7 thunder sunny summer humid
- 8 scorching world tornado storm

b (2 34)) Listen and check.

c (2 35)) Listen and write five sentences. Then practice saying them.

d Talk to a partner.

- What kind of weather do you associate with the different seasons where you live?
- What's the weather like today? Have you heard the forecast for tomorrow / next weekend?
- What's your favorite weather? Does the weather affect your mood? What do you like doing when the weather is bad?
- What kind of weather do you think is the best and the worst for...?
  - a camping
  - b going for a hike in the mountains
  - c driving
  - d running a marathon
  - e shopping
  - f sightseeing
- Do you think global warming is affecting the climate? In what ways has climate change affected the weather in your country?

## 5 LISTENING & SPEAKING

a (2 36)) You're going to listen to three people talking about their experiences of extreme weather in the US. Listen once. Which speaker...?

- was both relieved and scared by the weather
- got stressed because of the weather
- really enjoyed themselves in spite of the weather

b Listen again and take notes in the chart.

	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3
When did it happen?			
Where were they at the time?			
What kind of weather was it?			
What happened as a result?			

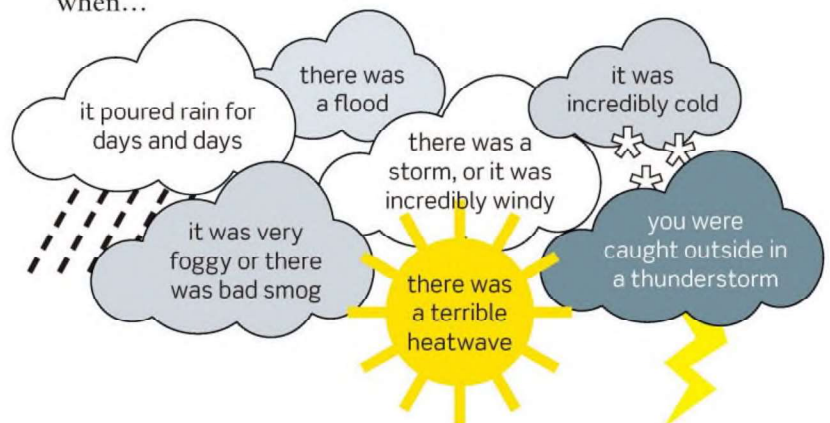
#### Modifiers with strong adjectives

When you are talking about extreme situations, e.g., very bad weather you can use:

- 1 Normal adjectives with a modifier (*very, really, extremely, incredibly, unbelievably*), e.g., *It was incredibly cold, extremely hot, unbelievably windy, etc.*
- 2 Strong adjectives, e.g., *It's boiling here - 104 degrees, It's freezing today, etc.*
- 3 Strong adjectives with *absolutely*, e.g., *It was absolutely freezing. The midday heat was absolutely scorching.*

Remember that we often use *a little* or *rather* + adjective to express a negative idea, e.g., *It's a little too hot. It's rather chilly today.*

c In small groups, talk about a time when you were somewhere when...



Where were you and what were you doing?

What did you do to protect yourself from the weather?

Did you ever feel scared or in danger?

## 6 (2 37)) SONG Heat Wave 🎵