

Teaching the Topic

People talk about the weather a lot in New Zealand and learners need ways of participating in these conversations. Sometimes weather information is important (for a choice of clothes, activity or location), and sometimes it is just an easy way to begin a conversation.

Resources

The weather page in the newspaper; TV and radio weather; weather on web sites; newspaper or TV stories about extreme weather or involving the weather; weather in the newspaper sports' pages as it affected a sporting activity; overseas weather stories.

Activities

- Practise 'small talk' conversations about the weather: initiating and responding to these.
- Discuss what the weather is going to be for the day/weekend/holiday.
- Tell a story or problem involving the weather; what the weather was like for an activity that happened in the past, for example, a holiday or picnic.
- Comment on the implications of certain weather – *Great day to get the washing dry, I had to use my electric blanket last night.*
- Role play personal reactions to certain kinds of weather – *I love winter because I can...*
- Make comparisons with the weather in the learner's country of origin.

Language

- Describing weather, seasons and climates – *muggy, windy, foggy, overcast, freezing, temperate, tropical.*
- Expressing feelings about kinds of weather like rain, wind, heat.
- Phrases for inquiring about the forecast – *What's the weather going to be like tomorrow? What's the weather going to do in the weekend?*
- Making comparisons – *hotter, drier, not as much wind as...*
- Agreeing with weather comments – *It is, Eh, Reckon, I'll say.*

Using the Worksheet

A possible introductory activity: What does the learner notice about the weather in their area of New Zealand? How do they feel about it? How is it different to their country?

The tutor needs to provide the day's weather forecast from the local paper, or from the Internet. This may be local weather or the whole country. Use the discussion questions before looking at the forecast. The learner looks at the map and the words to understand the weather information. Then they answer questions about the next day's weather. Answers can be oral and written.

Main learning points

Interpret visual and verbal information in the context. Find specific information about their area – temperature, wind etc. If the forecast covers the whole country find information about other centres.

What else could be learnt?

Vocabulary of weather forecasts – *maximum, cloudy, southerly, gusty.*

Compare the weather in different places – *My sister lives in Dunedin and it will be fine there tomorrow, but it will rain here.*

The learner can reinforce the learning by looking at the forecast every day and talking about what they noticed in the next session.

Maybe the forecast is wrong! *It said we were going to have warm weather yesterday, but it was cold.*

Use the forecast in small talk, for example, at the dairy – *Do you think it's going to rain?* Visit websites together with weather information – www.metservice.com and www.nzherald.co.nz are both useful.



What's the weather like?



Discuss these questions:

1. Do you like very hot weather?
2. Do you like walking in the rain?
3. What is your favourite weather?
4. What must people remember to do when out in the sun in New Zealand?

Look at the weather forecast and answer the following questions:

1. What are the highest and lowest temperatures for your town today?
2. Is it going to be windy today?
3. On the map, which cities have the highest temperature and which city has the lowest temperature?

For the very latest weather information, visit metservice.com

NZ centres today

Auckland	Occasional showers, possibly heavy. Brisk westerlies.		14	6
Hamilton	Showers, possibly heavy at times. Westerly winds.		14	5
Tauranga	Fine, a few showers around midday. Westerly winds.		14	7
Gisborne	Fine weather. Gusty westerlies.		15	6
Napier	Fine weather. Gusty westerlies, easing for a time.		15	8
New Plymouth	Cloudy periods, few showers. Westerly winds.		13	10
Palmerston N	Cloudy periods, few showers. Westerlies, strong at times.		13	8
Wellington	Fine weather with gusty northwesterlies.		13	8
Blenheim	Fine weather with westerly winds.		14	3
Nelson	Fine weather. Southwesterlies.		13	3
Westport	Rain at times. Gusty westerly winds.		12	8
Greymouth	Rain at times. Gusty westerly winds.		12	6
Christchurch	Fine, few early showers. Southwest dying out.		13	6
Timaru	Fine, few early showers. Southwest dying out.		12	4
Queenstown	Becoming fine. Gusty westerlies developing.		11	2
Dunedin	Fine, few early showers. Southwest dying out.		12	4
Invercargill	Occasional showers. Strong, gusty westerlies developing.		12	6