

## A. What is happening to our weather?

What is 'extreme' weather? Why are people talking about it these days? 'Extreme' weather is very unusual rain, heat, storms etc. These days, extreme weather events are more frequent.

The opposite situation is drought, when no rain falls. It affects countries like Australia, Russia and East Africa. Another example of extreme weather is a heat wave, such as in the summer of 2003. In Europe, 35,000 people died from heat-related problems.

Are these extreme events part of a natural cycle? Are they happening because human activity affects the Earth's climate? Probably both. On the one hand, the most important influences on weather events are natural cycles in the climate. Two of the most famous cycles are called El Niño and La Niña. They start in the Pacific Ocean, but they affect weather all around the world. On the other hand, the Earth's oceans are changing: their temperatures are increasing. And this is a result of human activity. The greenhouse gases we produce mean the atmosphere warms up. Warmer oceans produce more water vapour. Information from satellites tells us that there is four percent more water vapour in the atmosphere than 25 years ago. This warm, wet air turns into rain, storms, hurricanes and typhoons.

We need to accept reality. Our weather is changing and we need to act to save lives and money.

Choose the sentences below which state facts according to the text.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 The article says that extreme weather is more common nowadays.                                    | * |
| 2 Examples of extreme weather include El Niño and La Niña.  | * |
| 3 One cause of extreme weather is floods across large areas.  |   |
| 4 A drought caused many deaths in Europe in 2003.   |   |
| 5 The article says that extreme weather events are the result of natural cycles and human activity. | * |
| 6 Oceans are producing greenhouse gases.  |   |
| 7 Oceans are getting warmer.  | * |
| 8 Satellites measure the amount of water vapour in the atmosphere.                                  | * |
| 9 There is a lot of rain in periods of drought.   |   |
| 10 Heat waves can cause death.  | * |
| 11 Nowadays water vapour is 25 times larger than in the past.                                       |   |
| 12 Hurricanes are caused by warm wet air.   | * |
| 13 East Africa suffers from drought.  | * |

## B. VOCABULARY

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets

1. What is the name of the **singer** who won the award? (SONG)

2. Athens is famous for its tourist **attractions**. (ATTRACT)
3. He wants to be an **actor** but I don't think he's got too much talent. (ACT)
4. Credit cards are really **useful** when you travel. (USE)
5. There are too many forms of entertainment You have to find the right kind. (ENTERTAIN)
6. During her **youth** she lived in Africa. (YOUNG)
7. Be **careful** with your wallets in metro stations. (CARE)
8. Watching funny movies is my idea of **happiness**. (HAPPY)
9. Could you help me make a **decision** ? I don't know which phone to buy. (DECIDE)
10. He is a member of an **athletic** team. (ATHLET)
11. Icy roads can be very **dangerous**. (DANGER)
12. Maria has a **beautiful** voice. (BEAUTY)

### C. GRAMMAR

Choose the correct option to fill in the following sentences

1. John took a photo of me while I (didn't look/**wasn't looking**).
2. When I was young I (**wanted**/was wanting) to be a bus driver.
3. We (sailed/**were sailing**) on the lake when a terrible thunderstorm (**came up**/ was coming up).
4. My sister thinks she is (**more intelligent**/most intelligent) than me.
5. I think this movie is (**funnier**/funniest) than the book.
6. Who is the (more powerful/**most powerful**) person in your country?
7. They (**went**/were going) to the restaurant and had a cup of coffee.
8. Old people shouldn't go out (at/**in**) the winter when it's cold.
9. He (**was preparing**/prepared) lunch when the first guests arrived.
10. If you feel sleepy, you (**should**/need) make yourself a nice cup of coffee.