

Lesson 8. Should we trust weather forecasts?

1. 🎧 Listen, read the story and formulate its main idea in one sentence. Define the genre of the story.

Three men in a boat

I remember a holiday of mine, which was completely ruined one late autumn because we were foolish enough to read the weather forecast in the local newspaper. “Heavy showers, with thunderstorms, may be expected today,” it said on Monday, and so we gave up our picnic, and stayed indoors all day, waiting for the rain. And people passed the house, as happy and merry as could be, with the sun shining out, and not a cloud to be seen.

“Ah” we said, as we stood looking out at them through the window, “won’t they come home wet?!” And we chuckled (усмехнулись) to think how wet they were going to get.

By twelve o’clock, with the sun pouring into the room, the heat became unbearable, and we wondered when those heavy showers and thunderstorms were going to begin.

“Ah! They’ll come in the afternoon, you’ll see,” we said to each other.

“Oh, won’t those people get wet!”

At one o’clock the landlady (хозяйка дома) came in to ask if we weren’t going out, as it seemed such a lovely day.

“No, no,” we answered, with a knowing chuckle, “not we. We don’t mean to get wet – no, no.”

And when the afternoon was nearly gone, and still there was no sign of rain, we tried to cheer [tʃɪə] ourselves up (подбодрить себя) with the idea that it would come down all at once, just as the people had started for home, and they would finally get wet more than ever. But not a drop ever fell, and it finished a great day, and a lovely night after it.



The next morning we read that it was going to be a “warm, fine, fair day; much heat;” and we dressed ourselves in light things, and went out, and, half-an-hour after we had started, it began to rain hard, and a bitterly cold wind began to blow, and both kept on for the whole day. So we came home with colds and rheumatism [ˈru:mə,tɪz(ə)m] all over us, and went to bed.

The weather is a thing I never can understand.

After Jerome K. Jerome


2. Match parts of the sentences.

1. “Heavy showers, with thunderstorms, may be expected on Monday,” ...	a) the people outside were going to get wet.
2. They gave up their picnic, ...	b) showers and thunderstorms would come in the afternoon.
3. They chuckled thinking ...	c) and stayed indoors all day, waiting for the rain.
4. By twelve o’clock ...	d) said the weather forecast.
5. They said to each other that ...	e) and it finished a great day, and a lovely night after it.
6. And when the afternoon was nearly gone ...	f) but it was a cold rainy and windy day.
7. But not a drop ever fell, ...	g) the heat became unbearable.
8. The next morning they read it was going to be a warm, fair day, ...	h) because they had dressed themselves in light clothes.
9. They came home with colds ...	i) they still hoped that rain would come down all at once.

3. Why was the author’s holiday completely ruined? Have you ever been in a similar situation? Discuss in pairs.

4. Prove that the story is humorous. Give examples from the text. What helps you to feel the humour?

5. How should people plan a day out? Do you agree with the saying “There is no bad weather, there are bad clothes”? Collect your ideas from the whole class.

- 6.**  Listen and read the poem below. What does it teach us? Do you try to follow the final advice of the poem?

When the weather is wet,
We must not fret (не ворчи).
When the weather is cold,
We must not scold (не ругайся).
When the weather is warm,
We must not storm (не кричи, не горячись).
But be thankful together,
Whatever the weather.

Lesson 9. Be a weather presenter

- 1.** Get ready for a Weather Presenters Competition at the International Weather camp.

A. Write your weather forecast.

- Find a weather map in a newspaper or on the Internet.
- Write a weather forecast, following the steps (ex. 5A, B, Lesson 7).
- Check it for mistakes.



B. Get ready to present your weather forecast.

- Read it out loud several times.
- Tell your weather forecast several times, looking at the map.

- 2.** Take part in a Weather Presenters Competition.

A. Tell your weather forecast.

B. Listen to the participants and vote for (проголосуй за)

- a) the best weather forecast presenter, b) the best story,
c) the best weather, d) the longest weather forecast, e) the shortest weather forecast.

Project 

Weather presenter