

4A. What's the weather like at this time there?

5A. Thanks for advice. I appreciate it.

I think I'll follow your advice. / But I think such extremes are not for me.


4B. It's... So, be prepared! Put on layers. / Take a rain-proof coat and an umbrella. / And don't forget about your safety kit for traveling.

5B. You're welcome. / It's a shame (жаль).

4c.  Recommend the best time for visiting your region.

Lesson 6. First-hand experience of the British climate

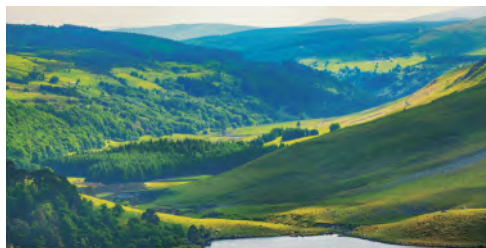
1. What do you already know about the UK's climate and weather?

2a.  Listen and read the story of an Australian, who spent a few years in the UK. Give at least 2 main characteristics of the UK's climate and weather.

1. It's a well-known fact that the climate of the UK is influenced by the sea, which is nowhere farther than 120 km. The sea warms slowly in summer and brings cool breezes overland, and it cools slowly in winter, generously sharing its warmth with land areas. The UK's climate is mild: it is never too hot or never too cold. One would expect similar weather in all seasons without much contrast between them.

2. But my first-hand experience will help me draw a different picture – a clear picture of four seasons. It is strongly influenced by the climate of my hot, sunny Australia. Here we often have to deal with droughts and wildfires caused by lack of rain for days, months and even years! The UK never experiences a rain deficit, even during the summer months, which are warm, and even hot in July! Heatwaves can be an exception though.

3. On official meteorological sites, you can read that precipitation is spread evenly throughout the year with annual averages of 885 mm and 133 days of rain or snow. If you have lived in the mild “maritime” climate of the UK, you might have a feeling that precipitation falls 24/7 in the form of drizzle, short showers, light or heavy rain – sometimes, real downpours! Britain seldom suffers from lack of rain, so green grass covers the gentle hills and valleys, plains and garden lawns al-



most all the year round. Well-fed by rain, all plants look so full of life and so different from the vegetation in arid and semi-arid climates of most of Australia.

4. Winter might signal its arrival with a little snow, especially in the north – in Yorkshire in England and in the mountainous areas of Scotland. It occurs



after short, mostly dull autumn days, cheered up by the bright colours of autumn leaves, which look even brighter under the blue sky of an Indian summer. Winter may start in late November with below freezing temperatures at night, and as a re-

sult, icy roads and paths (тропинки), causing injuries and longer journeys because of the slippery surfaces.

5. If there is a possibility of dangerous impacts, caused by extreme weather, the Met Office issues warnings for rain, fog, snow, ice and wind. Flood warnings are issued by Environment Agencies. There is no definite season for floods – they can occur any time in any season. They are a big problem and the flood damage costs huge amounts of money.

6. In spite of the problems caused by weather or weather extremes, British people know how to weather the storm and how

to avoid feeling under the weather. They know how to make the most of each season. Think of Christmas, for example, its beauty, shining with millions of sparkling (искрящихся) lights on houses, in shop windows, on Christmas Trees in every home and in the streets! The British are optimistic – time flies! Spring will soon begin in March, bringing the long Easter holiday. And the possibility to escape to warmer climates in summer is just round the corner!



7. Here's one more interesting observation about UK's weather. It can be described as unpredictable – because it is very changeable. Any weather is possible during the day.

No wonder, the British like to talk about the weather – they praise (хва- лить) it or blame it for destroyed plans, cancelled (отмененные) journeys and activities. Actually, they know how to deal with the naughty weather – a 'brolly'¹, rainproof wear and layers of clothes. As they say, "Rain or shine, keep calm and carry on."



2b. Read the text again paragraph by paragraph and make a complete list of typical features of the UK's weather and climate. Work in pairs or in groups. Compare your lists.

Model: 1. The UK's climate is mild. 2. ...

2c. Look through the text and find the paragraphs, which explain how British people deal with the weather. Choose key sentences for each paragraph. Work in pairs.

Model: 1. The Met Office issues warnings for rain ...

3a. Look through the text and write out key words to give more information about the typical features of the UK's climate (ex. 2b), and how British people deal with the weather (ex. 2c).

¹ brolly – British informal word for "umbrella"

3b. Prepare a short version of the story about the British climate and weather for your school online magazine. Work in pairs. Use the materials you prepared in ex. 3a.

3c.  Think of a title and write the article.

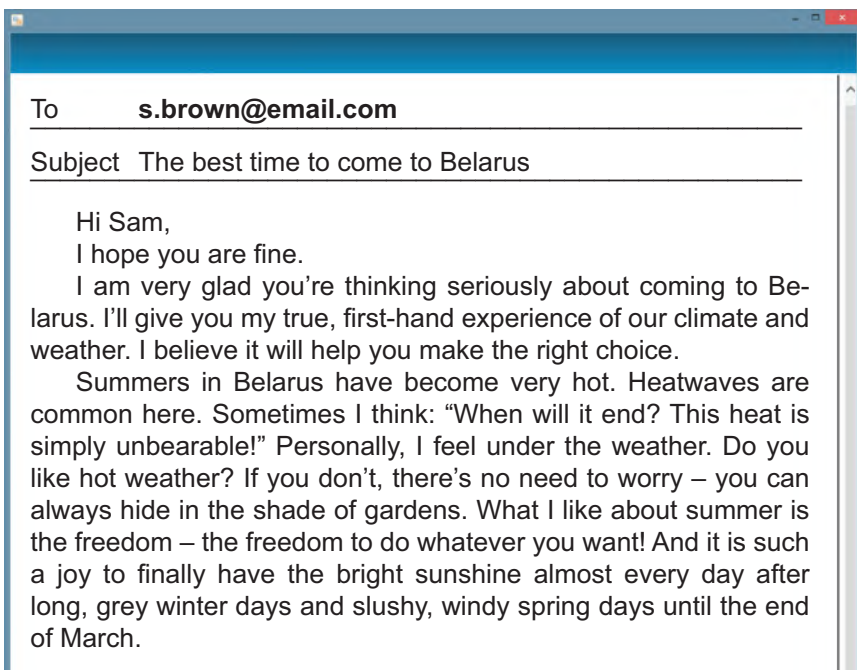
4. Roleplay an interview at the weather camp about the UK's climate. Use the questions of ex. 2a, Lesson 5 in the correct order.

Lesson 7. Welcome to Belarus – any time, any season!

1. What do you remember about the Belarusian climate?

2a.  Listen, read the email and answer the questions.

1. Why is the email written? 2. Does it help to choose the season for visiting Belarus? 3. What's the general tone of the email? Serious? Positive and optimistic? Emotional and poetic?



The screenshot shows an email client window. The 'To' field contains 's.brown@email.com' and the 'Subject' field contains 'The best time to come to Belarus'. The email body starts with 'Hi Sam, I hope you are fine.' followed by a paragraph about the climate in Belarus and a paragraph about the summer weather.

To **s.brown@email.com**

Subject The best time to come to Belarus

Hi Sam,
I hope you are fine.

I am very glad you're thinking seriously about coming to Belarus. I'll give you my true, first-hand experience of our climate and weather. I believe it will help you make the right choice.

Summers in Belarus have become very hot. Heatwaves are common here. Sometimes I think: "When will it end? This heat is simply unbearable!" Personally, I feel under the weather. Do you like hot weather? If you don't, there's no need to worry – you can always hide in the shade of gardens. What I like about summer is the freedom – the freedom to do whatever you want! And it is such a joy to finally have the bright sunshine almost every day after long, grey winter days and slushy, windy spring days until the end of March.