

Weather forecasting

Language

Vocabulary connected with the weather; phrases for future probability

Level

Elementary to ore-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A1/A2–B1 and above)

Comment

This eLesson looks at the start of weather forecasting and now on the 150th anniversary of meteorology.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Set the context of the reading: predicting the weather. You could ask students about the weather at that time and what they think the weather will be like the next day. Check students understand *weather forecasting* and *to predict*. You could ask students if they read or listen to the weather forecast regularly, and why / why not. This could be done either as a whole class activity or in pairs / small groups followed by class feedback. Then ask students to guess when the first weather forecast was.
- 2 Set exercise 1 and give a brief time limit, eg 1–2 minutes depending on students' level, to encourage fast reading. When the time limit is up, students can discuss their answers in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives students practice in reading for detailed comprehension. If you feel your students might have problems with any of the words, you can refer them to the Glossary. Students could compare their answers in pairs. In class feedback ask students to justify their answers with reference to the text.
- 4 Exercise 3 focuses on some possibly unknown lexis in the text. Ask students to scan the text quickly and underline words in the box. They then look at the context around the word to match it to one of the meanings and compare their answers in pairs. Take feedback. You could highlight the stress on the first syllable for *accurate*, *amateur* and the first syllable of the second word in *common knowledge*, on the second syllable in *delight* and third syllable from the end in *meteorology*.
- 5 Exercise 4 gives focuses on ways of talking about future probability. Students put the phrases in the sentences according to the degree of probability. Highlight the word order with *probably*: after *will* but before *won't*. Highlight the fact that *might* isn't used with *will*.
- 6 Exercise 5 gives students controlled practice of the phrases from exercise 4. In some of the sentences more than one is possible (see answers below).
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students personalised practice of the same phrases. If appropriate, students write predictions that are true for their country or a country they know well. They then compare their predictions with a partner. You could give students a card with the name of a country they know and ask them to predict the weather for the next few days. While students are writing their predictions, monitor and encourage them to correct any mistakes and supply any vocabulary they need. They could then read their predictions to a partner and the partner has to guess which country the prediction is about. Put on the board any new vocabulary that students used in this exercise.
- 8 Exercise 7 gives students personalised speaking practice about weather forecasting. Set the discussion task for small groups if appropriate. Take class feedback.

Answer key

1

- 1 paragraph 5
- 2 paragraph 2
- 3 paragraph 6
- 4 paragraph 4
- 5 paragraph 3

2

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1 150 | 5 40 / 75 |
| 2 1861 | 6 7 |
| 3 1936 | 7 24 |
| 4 1987 / 300 | 8 5 |

3

- 1 amateur
- 2 meteorology
- 3 accurate
- 4 hurricane
- 5 common knowledge
- 6 delight

4

- 100% It **will** happen.
 75% It **will probably** happen.
 50% It **might** happen.
 25% It **probably won't** happen.
 0% It **won't** happen.

5

- 1 will / won't
- 2 will / will probably
- 3 probably won't
- 4 will probably
- 5 might

6, 7 Students' own answers / ideas

Related websites

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/weather/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/weather/8675495/150-years-of-weather-forecasting-the-British-records.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14361204> (three-minute video about the history of weather forecasting)