

Unit 1

Weather

Learning Objectives

In this unit, you shall:

- learn ways to talk about the weather;
- master expressions used to describe the weather;
- listen to weather forecasts;
- gain a better understanding of the origin of the 24 Solar Terms.



Listening Skills



Task 1

Listen to four short dialogues and write down the weather-related words.

Dialogue 1: _____

Dialogue 2: _____

Dialogue 3: _____

Dialogue 4: _____

Vocabulary

hail *v.* 下冰雹

Task 2

Listen to the weather forecast and complete the table.

	Weather	Temperature	Chance of rain
Tonight			
Tomorrow			
Tomorrow night			
Friday			

Vocabulary

overcast *a.* 多云的; 阴的

shower *n.* 阵雨

degree Celsius 摄氏度

SSE (south-southeast) 东南偏南

mph (miles per hour) 英里/小时 (尤用于车速或风速)

intermittent *a.* 间歇的; 断断续续的

overnight *ad.* 通宵; 一夜间

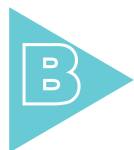
isolated *a.* 个别的; 单独的

severe *a.* 极恶劣的

Task 3

Listen to the weather forecast and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

Let's take a look at the weather in Shanxi Province for the next 24 hours. Taiyuan will be 1) _____ during this time with the 2) _____ ranging from 3) _____ degrees Celsius. A strong 4) _____ will reach Datong, which may cause heavy 5) _____. The temperature will range from 6) _____ degrees. Yangquan will be 7) _____ with a high of 8) _____ degrees. Linfen will be 9) _____ with temperatures between 10) _____ degrees. We can expect a 11) _____ and 12) _____ day in Yuncheng, with temperatures between 13) _____ degrees.



Listening Practice



Core Listening

Task 1

Listen to four dialogues and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write T (true) or F (false) in brackets.

Dialogue 1

- () 1. The weather is better today.
 () 2. It may rain later today.

Dialogue 2

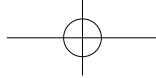
- () 1. It is likely to get cloudy and windy in the afternoon.
 () 2. It is summer now.

Dialogue 3

- () 1. It is likely to be a nice day.
 () 2. It was warmer yesterday.

Vocabulary

improvement *n.* 改进; 改善
 clear up 放晴



Dialogue 4

- () 1. The weather forecast from the radio is correct.
- () 2. It is snowing now.

Task 2

Listen to two dialogues and choose the best answer to each question.

Dialogue 1

- A. Warm and rainy.
- B. Cold and windy.
- C. Warm and dry.
- D. Hot and rainy.

Dialogue 2

- A. Cold.
- B. Freezing.
- C. Windy and snowy.
- D. Windy and rainy.

Task 3

Listen to two weather forecasts and fill in the blanks.

Weather Forecast 1

1. There will be less _____ activity in parts of Carolina and northern Georgia on Saturday.
2. _____ and thunderstorms will _____ across the entire South on Sunday.

Weather Forecast 2

1. The _____ monsoon is in full swing through the weekend.
2. More flash _____ are likely to occur across the central and southern counties of New Mexico and Arizona.

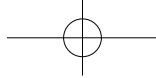
Vocabulary

cold front 冷锋

monsoon *n.* 季风

in full swing 处于全盛阶段; 在热烈进行中

gust *n.* 一阵狂风



2. Which of the following is part of tomorrow's forecast?

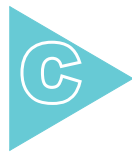
A. Sunshine.	B. Heavy rain.
C. Light snow.	D. Mild temperature.
3. What is the weather reporter's suggestion for skiers?

A. Stay indoors.	B. Beware of frost.
C. Dress warmly.	D. Pay attention to safety.

Task 2

Listen to the weather forecast again and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

1. Right now, the temperature is _____ degrees Celsius and is expected to _____ to about 6 degrees by noon.
2. Tomorrow's forecast calls for more _____ with a high of 0 and a low of minus 12.
3. Conditions are perfect for skiing this weekend, but if you're _____ out to the slopes tomorrow, please remember to bundle up to _____ frostbite.



Listening to China



Task 1

Listen to the passage and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

The 24 Solar Terms is the 1) _____ name for a system consisting of 12 major solar terms and 12 minor solar terms, which are linked with each other. The solar terms reflect changes in 2) _____, guide agriculture arrangements, and affect people's lives. During the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, people began to use solar terms as a supplementary 3) _____. It was in 104 BC that the 24 solar terms were finally set down. As we all know, China is a country with a long history of 4) _____. Agricultural production is largely influenced by the laws of nature. In ancient times, farmers arranged their agricultural activities according to the movement of the 5) _____. The 24 solar terms take the 6) _____ of the sun into account, and this is why they are so important.

Task 2

Listen to the following poem and then repeat it.

Tune: Dream of a Maid of Honour The Pass of Mount Lou

Mao Zedong

The wild west wind blows strong;
The morning moon shivers at the wild geese's song.
On frosty morn
Steeds trot with hooves outworn
And bugles blow forlorn.

Fear not the strong pass iron-clad on all sides!
The summit's now surmounted with big strides.
Surmounted with big strides,
Green mountains like the tide;
The sunken sun blood-dyed.

忆秦娥·娄山关 毛泽东

西风烈，长空雁叫霜晨月。
霜晨月，马蹄声碎，喇叭声咽。

雄关漫道真如铁，而今迈步从头越。
从头越，苍山如海，残阳如血。