

Intermediate Course  
 Friday, 19 August 2011: 10.00 - 11.30  
 Anne Hodgson | Patricia Franco  
 Session 13 > Weather: The best place at the best time



- sky
- temperature
- wind
- rain/no rain

**Good weather, bad weather:**

How do we speak objectively about the weather? In the text below, find three words or phrases that describe facts (like “it’s sunny and dry”). Underline them.

How do we speak subjectively about the weather? Find three phrases that describe opinions (like “it’s absolutely beautiful”). Underline them twice.

**Patricia’s hometown is Mexico City:**

If you’re planning to visit Mexico, Mexico City is a very nice place to go to. It’s absolutely beautiful in the summer, because it’s sunny almost every day. In the winter the weather is really lovely, too, because it’s sunny and dry. At night it’s nice and cool, about 12 degrees. In the autumn it’s very windy. It’s not too hot and not too cold, and it’s usually partly cloudy. So it sometimes rains, but it’s not too bad. But the weather is absolutely awful in the spring. In particular in May, it’s really terrible then, when it’s hot and humid and sticky, and it rains almost every day. So sometimes you can’t do much because of the rain. So don’t go there in May, or June.

**Anne’s hometown is Washington, DC:**

Washington’s absolutely beautiful in the spring. It’s really fantastic. The weather is nice and warm, and the nights are mild. That’s when the gardens are full of flowers, and the cherry blossoms are in bloom. The winters are usually not too cold. There is at least one big snowstorm and a week or two when it’s absolutely freezing. The temperature stays below zero for a few weeks. But it’s usually not too bad. The best season is the autumn, particularly in September and October, when the sky is very clear. But I’m warning you: Don’t go there in summer. It’s horrible! The sky is hazy, and it’s incredibly hot and humid every day. And we have thundershowers every night. It doesn’t really cool off. It stays hot. The last time I was there it was absolutely boiling! Everyone just leaves town.

Expand this description of weather in

Barcelona using these words:

incredibly/ really/ very/ ~~nice and~~/ not too/  
absolutely

The winters are nice and mild. It's  
\_\_\_\_\_ cold. The spring is  
\_\_\_\_\_ beautiful. Of course,  
the summer is \_\_\_\_\_ hot.  
There are days when it is \_\_\_\_\_  
boiling. But usually, with the wind coming from  
the ocean, it's not *too* hot.

### THE TEMPERATURE

It's incredibly hot!

It's not too hot!

It's very warm!

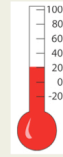
It's nice and warm. 😊

It's nice and cool. 😊

It's really chilly!

It's so cold!

It's absolutely  
boiling!!



It's absolutely  
freezing!!

You can't say "~~more boiling~~" or "~~very boiling~~"  
or "~~too boiling~~". It's either boiling, or it's not!  
Say "absolutely boiling".

### Task: What's the weather like there?

Think of a place you know well - the place you were born or a place you have travelled to. What's your favorite season there? What's the weather like? Why do you like it? What is the worst season there? Write down the words you need to talk about it. Then get together with a partner, and ask him or her:

- What town or city did you choose?
- What's the weather like there?
- What's your favorite season there?
- What do you like most about it?
- What's the worst season?

Then tell your partner about your city/country.

Move around, change partners. Compare. Do you like the same kinds of places and seasons? Do you want to go to these places? Why or why not? Which season would you choose?