

Stormy weather

READING

Look at the three photos, and read extracts from three blogs. In pairs, guess which country / city the people are writing from.

Read the blogs again and tick (✓) the right box(es). In which blog does someone...?

1 2 3

- 1 go out in spite of a severe weather warning ☐ ☐ ☐
- 2 seem to be a foreigner living abroad ☐ ☐ ☐
- 3 have fun in spite of the weather ☐ ☐ ☐
- 4 complain about how the weather makes him / her feel ☐ ☐ ☐
- 5 talk about problems with transport ☐ ☐ ☐
- 6 describe how surprised people are by the weather ☐ ☐ ☐
- 7 criticize some people for doing something ☐ ☐ ☐
- 8 talk about the damage caused by the weather ☐ ☐ ☐
- 9 complain that people are not well prepared to cope with the weather ☐ ☐ ☐

c Look at the **highlighted** words in the blogs and discuss what they mean with a partner.

d Would any of these three types of weather be surprising where you live? Have you had any surprising weather where you live recently?

1

Posted: Tuesday 4th September

Yesterday was unbelievable. Though we were warned there was going to be a terrible **storm**, no one really expected or could possibly have visualized **hurricane-force winds** destroying bus stops and ripping trees out of the wet soil. They told us not to cycle anywhere and to stay indoors, but I had a job interview in the centre so I had to go out.

Thank God I did manage to get there, but I had to grab hold of traffic lights so I wouldn't be blown into the road. I saw some crazy people on bikes –



some of them got **blown** over and one even seemed to be going backwards. The canals were full of rubbish bins that had got blown in and there were piles of bikes in the streets and broken umbrellas everywhere, which people obviously thought they were going to be able to use and then couldn't. What a mess!

Comments 8

2

Posted: Sunday 22nd July

Yet another **scorching**, sunny day...

I never knew this kind of **heat** was possible here. Last Wednesday was the hottest day ever in this country. The roads were **melting** in some areas, and the underground was a total nightmare – it was like being slowly cooked in an oven.

The main problem is that people here don't seem to understand the need for air conditioning during the summer. There is no escaping the heat and if you actually want to go anywhere, you have to be prepared to **sweat** and learn to enjoy your task sweating. Please tell me, how do you shop? Try on clothes? No thank you. Even going for an ice-cold beer can be uncomfortable if the pub isn't at least equipped with a large **fan**.

So I sit here sweating in my living room. The French windows are open but the coolest room in the apartment is the bathroom and sadly, there is no Internet connection so I can't work there!

Comments 22



3

Posted: Thursday 8th November

I got woken up today by my daughter screaming, 'Dad... it's snowing... it's snowing!' She just couldn't believe it – not surprising as they said on the news that it hasn't snowed here for nearly fifty years! We decided not to send her to school and we had a great time – we even made a snowman in the yard. We used dried cranberries for the eyes and a baby carrot for the nose because it was a baby snowman. People are so amazed by the 'totally awesome' weather that I've seen some people just standing there staring as if they were in a trance. You kind of feel it's the work of a clever set decorator for a high-budget movie.



It was chaos, though, for people going to work – Interstate 5 was closed in some parts and a whole load of trucks were stuck in the snow. And it's been very bad news for the citrus trees – they're all **frozen**. Even if it **thaws** tomorrow, the damage is already done. So I'm afraid we won't be eating any local oranges this year!

Comments 104