

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

IN THIS UNIT YOU WILL ...

Watch and listen	watch and understand a video about the taiga forest.
Reading skill	scan to find information.
Critical thinking	categorize information.
Grammar	use nouns and adjectives; use noun phrases; use prepositional phrases.
Academic writing skills	use correct punctuation; use correct word order.
Writing task	write about the weather.



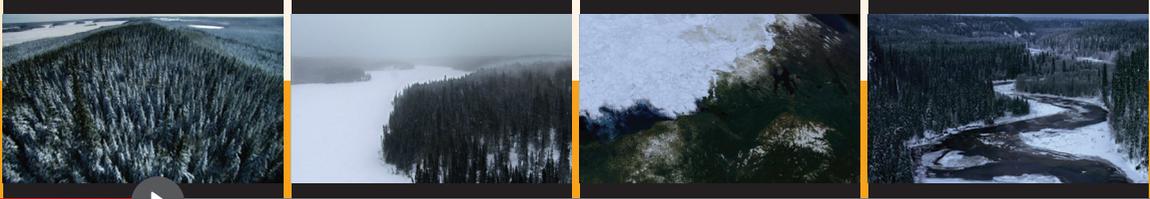
UNLOCK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Look at the photo and ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Does this look like a nice time of year? Why / Why not?
- 2 Does this look like your country? Why / Why not?
- 3 What time of year do you like best? Why?



WATCH AND LISTEN



ACTIVATING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

PREDICTING CONTENT USING VISUALS

PREPARING TO WATCH

- 1 Work with a partner and answer the questions.
 - 1 Which seasons do you have in your country?
 - 2 Do you prefer hot and sunny weather or cold and snowy weather? Why?
 - 3 Where in the world is it very cold?

- 2 Look at the pictures from the video. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false) next to the statements. Correct the false statements.

_____ 1 This part of the Earth is warm.

_____ 2 Part of the river is frozen.

_____ 3 There is ice and snow on the trees.

_____ 4 The trees die in the winter.

GLOSSARY

temperature (n) how hot or cold something is; for example, 0 °C

river (n) a long natural area of water that goes across the land

fir trees / pine trees (n) trees with thin, hard green leaves that stay green all winter

forest (n) a large area with many trees growing closely together

freezing / frozen (adj) very cold; turned into ice

heavy snow (n phr) a lot of snow

WHILE WATCHING

3  Watch the video. Tick (✓) the statements that you hear.

- 1 The days grow short and cold.
- 2 Winter is hard here.
- 3 Water in the air, in rivers and in plants turns to ice.
- 4 All of the plants die.
- 5 Heavy snow covers the taiga.
- 6 Cold temperatures return in spring.

4  Watch again. Circle the correct answer.

- 1 Snow and cold temperatures move *north* / *south*.
- 2 Fir trees can live in very *warm* / *cold* temperatures.
- 3 The taiga forest has almost *20%* / *30%* of all the trees on Earth.
- 4 Heavy *snow* / *rain* covers part of the taiga until the spring.

5 Read the sentences below and write the words from the box in the gaps.

difficult flowers near winter

- 1 The _____ is very long in the taiga forest.
- 2 The taiga forest is _____ the North Pole.
- 3 Living in the taiga forest is _____ in winter.
- 4 _____ do not grow in winter in the taiga forest.

DISCUSSION

6 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Do you think it is easy for people to live in the taiga forest? Why / Why not?
- 2 How long do you think winter is in the taiga forest?
- 3 Which season is the longest in your country?
- 4 What things do you take with you when you go to a cold place?

UNDERSTANDING
MAIN IDEAS

UNDERSTANDING
DETAIL

MAKING INFERENCES

READING 1

UNDERSTANDING KEY VOCABULARY

PREPARING TO READ

1 You are going to read an article about a city with cold weather. Look at the words in bold. Match sentences 1–3 with a–c.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Italy is warm . | a In winter, the temperatures are freezing. |
| 2 Sweden is cold . | b In summer, everyone enjoys the sun. |
| 3 Spring is before summer . | c Autumn is before winter . |

2 Match the words (1–7) to the correct numbers (a–g).

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 1 eleven | a 8 |
| 2 eighteen | b 18 |
| 3 twenty-one | c 6 |
| 4 forty-two | d 42 |
| 5 fifty | e 21 |
| 6 eight | f 11 |
| 7 six | g 50 |

3 Look at the temperatures in the box. Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

-1 °C +16 °C +27 °C

- Which temperature do you like best? Why?
 - What clothes do people wear outside for each temperature?
 - What is the temperature in summer where you live? What is the temperature in winter?
- 4 Look at the graph, photographs and headings in the reading on page 41. Write *T* (true) or *F* (false) next to the statements. Correct the false statements.

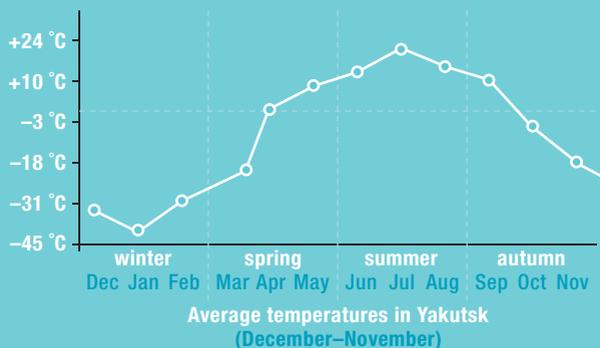
_____ 1 Yakutsk is a city.

_____ 2 Winter is very cold in Yakutsk.

_____ 3 Summer is very cold in Yakutsk.

_____ 4 Svetlana has a café in Moscow.

THE COLDEST CITY IN THE WORLD



ice skating



skiing



- 1 The temperature in your freezer is **cold**. It is about -18°C . The city of Yakutsk in Russia is colder than your freezer. In **winter**, the average temperature¹ is -42°C !
- 2 In 2018, I visited Yakutsk. Why? Because I wanted to see the coldest city in the world. I wanted to meet the people of Yakutsk.

Svetlana has a warm café in a cold city.



- 3 'Life is difficult in winter,' says Svetlana, 'but we're not sad.' Svetlana is the manager of a café² in Yakutsk. She has two children. Her son Pavel is 11. Her daughter Daria is 5.
- 4 'The average temperature in winter is -42°C . Some winters are colder. At -40°C , the kindergarten³ is closed. Daria is happy. At -45°C , the kindergarten and the school are closed. Daria and Pavel are happy,' Svetlana says.
- 5 People in Yakutsk like sport⁴. In **spring** and **autumn**, the average temperature is -21°C . They go skiing and ice skating. In **summer**, it is **warm**. The average temperature is $+20^{\circ}\text{C}$. People take food and drinks to eat outside.

¹average temperature (n phr) how hot or cold a place usually is

²café (n) a small restaurant where you can buy drinks and food

³kindergarten (n) a class for young children, usually four or five years old

⁴sport (n) a game or activity which people do to keep healthy or for fun

WHILE READING

SKILLS

Scanning to find information

Scanning means looking for information. When we scan, we do not read every word in a text. We can scan for information such as:

- numbers
- names of people
- names of places

Look for capital letters to find people and places.

SCANNING TO FIND INFORMATION

5 Match the facts (1–6) to the correct numbers (a–f).

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 the average temperature in summer | a -42°C |
| 2 the year the writer visited Yakutsk | b 2016 |
| 3 the average temperature in winter | c 5 |
| 4 Daria's age | d -45°C |
| 5 the average temperature in spring and autumn | e -21°C |
| 6 the temperature when kindergartens and schools are closed | f $+20^{\circ}\text{C}$ |

6 Write the words from the box in the gaps to complete the summary of the text.

cold spring Svetlana warm Yakutsk

The text is about ⁽¹⁾_____ and her family. They live in the city of ⁽²⁾_____ in Russia. Winters are very ⁽³⁾_____. Sometimes school is closed. In ⁽⁴⁾_____ and autumn, people go skiing and ice skating. In summer, it is ⁽⁵⁾_____.

DISCUSSION

7 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Do you want to live in Yakutsk? Why / Why not?
- 2 When is a good time to visit Yakutsk? Why?
- 3 What do you do in cold temperatures?



READING 2

PREPARING TO READ

- 1 Work with a partner. Talk about winter, spring, summer and autumn in your city or town. Do you have all four seasons? What months are in each season?

months	
January	July
February	August
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	December

- 2 Look at Texts A, B and C on page 44. Choose the correct answers (a–c) to the questions (1–3).

1 Where are the texts from?

- a a book b a magazine c a website

2 Which text is about the weather in Cuba now?

- a Text A b Text B c Text C

3 Which texts are about typical weather in Cuba?

- a Texts A and B b Texts B and C c Texts A and C

- 3 You are going to read about the weather in Cuba. Read the definitions in the box. Then write the words from the box in the gaps in 1–4.

dry (adj) with very little or no rain

rainfall (n) the amount of rain that falls in one place

season (n) one of the four parts of the year: winter, spring, summer or autumn

climate (n) the weather which an area usually has

- 1 The _____ in spring is often high. It is good for the plants.
2 Summer is my favourite _____. I like warm temperatures.
3 The desert is very _____. Little rain falls there.
4 The _____ in the desert is hot and dry.

USING YOUR
KNOWLEDGE

PREVIEWING

UNDERSTANDING
KEY VOCABULARY



4 Write the words from the box in the gaps in Text A.

cloudy sunny rainy windy

A

WWW.CUBAWEATHER.ORG

CUBA WEATHER

HOME | WEATHER | CUBAN CLIMATE | WEATHER AVERAGES

TODAY | TOMORROW | 5 DAY | MONTHLY

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
(1) _____	cloudy and (2) _____	(3) _____ and cloudy	sunny and (4) _____	sunny
+29 °C	+28 °C	+26 °C	+29 °C	+31 °C

B

WWW.CUBAWEATHER.ORG

CUBA WEATHER

HOME | WEATHER | CUBAN CLIMATE | WEATHER AVERAGE

- Cuba is in the Caribbean. The **climate** in Cuba is good. It has two **seasons**: the **dry** season and the **rainy** season. The dry season and the rainy season each last for six months.
- The dry season is from November to April. The average temperatures are between +22 °C and +25 °C in the dry season. The average **rainfall** is 62 mm in the dry season. It is **windy** and **sunny** in the dry season.
- The rainy season is from May to October. In the rainy season, the average temperatures are between +26 °C and +28 °C. The average rainfall in the rainy season is 146 mm. It is often **cloudy**.
- The best time to visit Cuba is April or May.



C

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CUBA WEATHER

HOME | WEATHER | CUBAN CLIMATE | WEATHER AVERAGES

SEASON (MONTHS)	AVERAGE TEMPERATURE	AVERAGE RAINFALL	AVERAGE WIND SPEED
Dry (Nov–Apr)	+23 °C	62 mm	8 kph
Rainy (May–Oct)	+27 °C	146 mm	15 kph

WHILE READING

5 Read the three texts (A–C) quickly. Match the facts (1–6) to the correct numbers (a–f).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 number of months in the dry season | a +26 |
| 2 average temperatures (°C) in the dry season | b +31 |
| 3 average rainfall (mm) in the dry season | c +23 |
| 4 average rainfall (mm) in the rainy season | d 146 |
| 5 temperature (°C) on Tuesday | e 6 |
| 6 temperature (°C) on Thursday | f 62 |

6 Look at Text B again. Take notes on the seasons in the table.

dry season	rainy season

DISCUSSION

7 Work with a partner. Use ideas from Reading 1 and Reading 2 to answer the questions.

- 1 When is a good time to visit Cuba? Why do you think those months are good?
- 2 What are the seasons in Cuba?
- 3 Where can you find facts about the climate in a country?
- 4 Why do people want to know about the weather and climate of a place?

NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES

GRAMMAR

Words for people, places or things are *nouns*. Words that describe people, places and things are *adjectives*.

We write adjectives before a noun.

good climate, *cold* winter, *happy* child

Adjectives always go after *is / are (not)*.

Summer *is nice*.

Ice skating and skiing *are popular* in my country.

The rainy season *is not dry*.



1 Match the adjectives (1–7) with the opposites (a–g).

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 difficult | a warm |
| 2 cold | b dry |
| 3 sunny | c hot |
| 4 cool | d cloudy |
| 5 rainy | e unpopular |
| 6 popular | f easy |
| 7 happy | g sad |

2 Underline the nouns and circle the adjectives in the sentences.

- 1 The café is warm.
- 2 October is rainy.
- 3 The climate is good.
- 4 Summers are hot.
- 5 Winters are cold.

3 Read the sentences. Write the words from the box in the gaps.

cloudy cold difficult happy sunny

- 1 In Yakutsk, life is _____ in winter.
- 2 The children are _____. There is no school today.
- 3 It is warm and _____ today.
- 4 The winter is _____ in Yakutsk.
- 5 The rainy season is _____. You do not see the sun for days.

NOUN PHRASES

A *noun phrase* is a noun and another word that describes or defines the noun. When an adjective comes before a noun, it is part of a noun phrase.

noun phrases: *Cuba has a good climate. The average rainfall is 62 mm.*

Use *has* to show that the noun phrase belongs to the subject.

Cuba has a dry season.

Use *be* to link the noun phrase with a word or phrase that describes it.

The rainy season is from May to October.

4 Make a noun phrase from the bold words in each sentence. Write it in the gaps to make a new sentence.

1 Yakutsk's **winters** are **cold**.

Yakutsk has _____ .

2 The **season** is **dry** from November to April.

The _____ is from November to April.

3 In the rainy season, the **rainfall** is **high**.

The rainy season has _____ .

4 **Summers** are **warm** in Yakutsk.

Yakutsk has _____ .

5 Work with a partner. Correct the mistakes in the sentences. Check the adjectives in the noun phrases and after the verbs *be* and *have*.

1 Cuba has a season rainy.

2 Yakutsk has a autumn cold.

3 In summer, we have weather sunny.

4 The dry season windy is.

5 In spring, the rainfall high is.



CRITICAL THINKING

At the end of this unit, you are going to write about the weather. Look at this unit's writing task in the box below.

Write about the weather in your city or town.

SKILLS

Categorizing information

After you collect information, the next step is to categorize it, or put the information in groups. Look at the headings in the table. A table is a good way to categorize information. It is easy to see facts and numbers.

season	months	average temperature
spring	March, April, May	+21 °C



APPLY

- 1 Complete the table below. Use information about Yakutsk from the text and graph on page 41.

season	months	average temperature
winter		
	March, April and May	
		-21 °C

2 Work with a partner. Look at the table in Exercise 1 on page 48. Ask and answer the questions.

- 1 Is Yakutsk cold in February?
- 2 Is Yakutsk warm in August?
- 3 What is the weather like in April?
- 4 When is autumn?
- 5 Is spring warm or cold?

3 Think of your own city or town. Circle the seasons there.

dry season autumn rainy season spring summer winter

4 Work with a partner. Create a table for the seasons in your city or town. If you don't know the information, write what you think it is.

season	months	average temperature

5 Compare your answers with a partner. Then use the internet to check and correct your information.

ANALYZE 

CREATE 

GRAMMAR FOR WRITING

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

GRAMMAR

The words *about, in, from, between* and *for* are examples of *prepositions*. A *prepositional phrase* is a preposition + a noun. Use prepositional phrases to say where, when and how long, and to give an estimate or range.

where: Svetlana is **from Yakutsk**. Yakutsk is **in Russia**.

when: It is warm **in summer**. It is cold **in January**.

how long: The rainy season lasts **for six months**. The rainy season lasts **from May to October**.

estimate or range: It is **about -18 °C**. The dry season lasts **about six months**. The average temperatures are **between +22 °C and +25 °C**.

- 1 Read the sentences. Write the prepositions from the box in the gaps. You can use one preposition more than once.

about between for in

- 1 People _____ Yakutsk like sport.
 - 2 It is windy _____ the dry season in Cuba.
 - 3 The average temperatures are _____ +26 °C and +28 °C in the dry season.
 - 4 The temperature _____ your freezer is _____ -18 °C.
 - 5 Winter lasts _____ three months in Yakutsk.
- 2 Answer the questions. Use the correct prepositions in your answers.

1 Where are you from?

2 When is it warm in your city?

3 How long is the winter in your country?

4 What is the average temperature in May in your city?

5 When is the weather nice in your city?

Prepositional phrases and punctuation

When a prepositional phrase begins a sentence, use a comma after it.

In the rainy season, the average temperatures are between +26 °C and +28 °C.

In spring and autumn, the average temperature is -21 °C.

3 Circle the prepositional phrase in the sentences.

- 1 In the dry season, the average temperatures are between +26 °C and +28 °C.
- 2 The average temperatures are between +26 °C and +28 °C in the dry season.

4 Look at the sentences in Exercise 3. Answer the questions.

- 1 Which sentence has a comma after the prepositional phrase?

- 2 What preposition is used to give a range in temperatures? _____

5 Write the prepositional phrases from the box in the gaps. Add commas if necessary.

in July in the dry season in the rainy season

- 1 It is warm in Cuba _____.
- 2 _____ the average rainfall is 146 mm.
- 3 The average rainfall is 62 mm _____.

6 Add five commas to the text.

Dubai is a great place to visit. From November to March many people go to the beach. The weather is good. In these months the temperatures are between +24 °C and +35 °C. From January to March Dubai has a rainy season, but it does not rain a lot. Summer is from April to October. In summer Dubai is very hot. People do not go outside. In this season the temperatures are too high.

7 Put the words in order to make sentences. Remember to use a comma if a prepositional phrase begins the sentence.

1 windy / October / , / is / it / In / .

2 weather / good / summer / is / The / in / .

3 Cuba / climate / good / the / is / In / , / .

4 the average / , / 34 mm / In / autumn / rainfall / is / .

5 Yakutsk / The / are / cold / winters / in / .

6 in / summer / is / The average temperature / +20 °C / .

7 the dry season / 62 mm / In / , / average rainfall / is / the / .



WORD ORDER

LANGUAGE

Subject–verb–noun (phrase) / adjective

A sentence is about a *subject*. The subject is a pronoun, a noun or a noun phrase. Write the *verb* after the *subject* in a sentence. Write a noun, a noun phrase or an adjective after the verb *be*.

Noun or noun phrase: *Svetlana is the manager. She is the mother of two children.*

Adjective: *Winter is cold. Life is difficult.*

1 Circle the option that is true for you or your country.

- 1 It *is* / *is not* cold in December.
- 2 Skiing *is* / *is not* popular in my country.
- 3 I am *happy* / *sad* in spring.
- 4 I think the weather in my country is *good* / *bad*.
- 5 It is *rainy* / *sunny* in August.
- 6 It is *warm* / *cold* in November.
- 7 The summer *is* / *is not* dry in my country.

2 Put the words in order to make sentences.

1 is / in / Russia / Ice skating / popular / .

2 are / two seasons / There / in Cuba / .

3 rainy / is / It / in April / .

4 sunny / is / Tuesday / in Cuba / .

5 are / warm / The summers / .

6 in / dry / August / is / It / .

7 windy / it / winter / is / In / .



PUNCTUATION

Capital letters

For the following types of words, the first letter is always a capital letter.

names of months: *April, May, June*

names of days: *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday*

nationalities: *Mexican, Egyptian, Korean*

names of people: *Juanna, Luis, Rodrigo*

names of places: *Turkey, Cairo, New York City*

Commas

Commas separate parts of a sentence or things in a list. Use a comma:

- after a prepositional phrase at the beginning of a sentence
- when listing three or more items

In winter, we go skiing.

In summer, we go swimming.

It is going to be windy on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

We do not usually use a comma after *and*.

3 Add commas to the items in the lists.

1 It is spring in March April and May.

2 It rains in spring summer and autumn.

3 The coldest months are December January and February.

4 The warmest months are June July and August.

4 Correct the punctuation in the sentences. Add capital letters, commas and full stops.

1 in january the weather is cold in russia

2 the average temperature is +21 °C in july

3 in the rainy season the average rainfall is 146 mm in cuba

4 the weather is sunny in summer

5 in dubai august is a warm month

WRITING TASK

Write about the weather in your city or town.

PLAN

- 1 Look back at your table in the Critical thinking section on page 49. Check your notes and add any new information you want to include.
- 2 Read the Task checklist on page 56 as you prepare your sentences.

WRITE A FIRST DRAFT

- 3 Write information about your city or town in the gaps below.

_____ (city or town) is in
_____ (country). _____ (city or
town) has _____ (number) seasons. The seasons are
_____ .

- 4 Write sentences about your city.

- 1 Write a sentence about the weather in one season. (It is windy / cold / rainy.)

- 2 Say which months the season is in (April / May).

- 3 Write a sentence about the average temperatures in this season.

- 4 Write a sentence about the weather in another season. (It is windy / cold / rainy.)

- 5 Write a sentence about the average temperatures in this season.



EDIT

5 Use the Task checklist to review your sentences.

TASK CHECKLIST	✓
Use adjectives before a noun or after the verb <i>be</i> .	
Use prepositional phrases to tell where, when or how long, or to give an estimate or range.	
Use commas after prepositional phrases which begin a sentence and for items in a list.	
Capitalize the beginning of a sentence and names of months, days, people, nationalities and places.	

6 Make any necessary changes to your sentences.

OBJECTIVES REVIEW

1 Check your learning objectives for this unit. Write 3, 2 or 1 for each objective.

3 = very well 2 = well 1 = not so well

I can ...

watch and understand a video about the taiga forest. _____

scan to find information. _____

categorize information. _____

use nouns and adjectives. _____

use noun phrases. _____

use prepositional phrases. _____

use correct punctuation. _____

use correct word order. _____

write about the weather. _____

2 Go to the *Unlock* Online Workbook for more practice with this unit's learning objectives.



WORDLIST

autumn (n)

rainfall (n)

sunny (adj)

climate (n)

rainy (adj)

warm (adj)

cloudy (adj)

season (n)

windy (adj)

cold (adj)

spring (n)

winter (n)

dry (adj)

summer (n)

The words which are noted with a are among the most frequent words in the Cambridge Academic Corpus.