

Idioms about the Weather

1 Warm Up Work with a partner.

- Do you know any English expressions about the weather?



2 Matching

Work with a partner. Choose one word from the list below for each space. What do you think the idioms mean?

snowed	thunder	weather	rain	storm
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1. Julian is feeling under the He has a terrible sore throat.
2. Last week I had the flu, but now I'm as right as
3. When Janet advertised for a new P.A., she was under with résumés.
4. My apple pie went down a! I'm going to make it again next week!
5. Watch out! Bob has a face like

3 Check Match the meaning to the idiom.

1. all right _____
2. look angry _____
3. be very popular _____
4. be unwell _____
5. be very busy _____

4 Check Rewrite these sentences using an idiom from the list above.

1. The new production of 'Hamlet' is really popular!
2. I replaced the battery and now the flashlight is ok!
3. Did you give John the bad news? He looks really angry!
4. I have so much to do at work! I really need a break.
5. Kirstin isn't feeling great. She thinks those oysters were bad.

5 Discussion

- When did you last feel under the weather? What did you do?
- Can you think of any movies or TV shows that went down a storm?
- Are you snowed under at work / school / home? Why are you (not) so busy?

Idioms about the Weather: Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Idiom Building
Vocabulary:	Weather-themed idioms
Level:	Upper-intermediate to Advanced
Time:	30 minutes or longer, depending on discussion
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

This worksheet looks at some common idioms that are related to weather. There are a number of exercises to recycle the vocabulary, including discussion at the end.

- 1 The opening question will get your students thinking about some common 'weather' expressions. Your students may know 'raining cats and dogs' (purposefully not covered here, as it could be viewed as old-fashioned). Find out if your students have a similar expression in their language.
- 2 Follow the instructions. Students can work alone, and then check in pairs.
- 3 Again, students can work alone and check in pairs. Elicit the answers from the group, and give further explanations or examples where necessary.

After going through the answers, give the students one minute to read the idioms again, and memorize them.

- 4 This exercise checks your students' ability to use the idioms in sentences. Students can work in pairs, and then check with a student from a different pair. For this exercise, have students cover the previous exercises.

Go through the answers with the group.

- 5 Assign new pairs or groups of three. The pairs / groups should begin by reading through the questions.

When students are talking, monitor, but try not to interrupt. Make a note of errors that you think need correcting: especially ones which cover these idioms.

When the discussion comes to a close, write some of the errors you heard on the board, and elicit corrections.

Answer Key (Other answers may be possible)

- 2
 1. Julian is feeling under the weather. He has a terrible sore throat.
 2. Last week I had the flu, but now I'm as right as rain!
 3. When Janet advertised for a new P.A., she was snowed under with résumés.
 4. My apple pie went down a storm! I'm going to make it again next week!
 5. Watch out! Bob has a face like thunder!

The answer key continues on the next page.

- 3
- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 1. | all right | 2 |
| 2. | look angry | 5 |
| 3. | be very popular | 4 |
| 4. | be unwell | 1 |
| 5. | be very busy | 3 |

- 4
1. The new production of 'Hamlet' has gone down a storm.
 2. I replaced the battery and now the flashlight is as right as rain!
 3. Did you give John the bad news? He has a face like thunder.
 4. I am snowed under at/with work. I really need a break.
 5. Kirstin is feeling under the weather. She thinks those oysters were bad.

How are we doing?



We'd be pleased to hear some feedback on our worksheets. Tell us how it went in your class. You can send us feedback from www.handoutsonline.com

Alternatively, you can email the editor at editor@handoutsonline.com.

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