

## Chapitre 16

# Weather

## Le temps, les conditions météorologiques

### Compétences à acquérir : comprendre les bulletins météorologiques

Dans le test du TOEIC, il vous arrivera peut-être d'entendre des conversations sur le temps ou sur la météo et de lire des articles traitant de ce thème. On peut entendre des discussions sur le beau temps, le ciel dégagé, les températures douces (**mild**), sur le mauvais temps, la pluie, l'humidité ou les phénomènes météorologiques dangereux, comme les orages (**thunderstorm**) ou les tempêtes de neige (**blizzard**). Les prévisions météorologiques (**forecast**) annoncent la probabilité (**likelihood**) de certains phénomènes météorologiques dans les 12 à 24 heures. Il peut y avoir un risque de pluie (**rain**), ou l'annonce qu'un ciel couvert (**overcast**) se dégagera (**clear up**).

Weather forecasts provide us with important information because the weather can have a significant effect on our activities. If we hear that a rain **shower** is on the way, then we know we should change our plans to work outside or go to an outdoor event. On the other hand, if we know that an **overcast** day will **clear up** soon, then we can hurry to make plans for going to the beach. **Weather reports** also protect our safety if dangerous weather **threatens** our area. They give us a chance to prepare for a major weather event such as a **thunderstorm, hurricane, or blizzard**. When dangerous weather is coming, people listen for frequent weather **updates** so they can know if the weather might change and they can hear advice about preparing for the weather conditions.

## Vocabulaire

**Blizzard (n.)** : *tempête de neige*

Half a meter of snow fell during yesterday's blizzard.

**Clear up (v.)** : *se dégager, s'éclaircir, se lever*

The sky will clear up later this morning and the afternoon will be very sunny.

**Diminish (v.)** : *diminuer, réduire ; se réduire*

The strong winds tonight will diminish by morning.

**Forecast (n.)** : *prévision(s)*

According to the weather forecast, there will be rain all week.

**v. forecast, forecast, forecast** : *prévoir*

Meteorologists forecast a cold winter.

**Haze (n.)** : *brume, légère brume*

A haze hung over the city.

*Une légère brume flottait sur la ville.*

**adj. hazy** : *brumeux, voilé*

Tomorrow will be a very hazy day.

**Hurricane (n.)** : *ouragan*

The high winds of a hurricane can cause a great deal of damage.

**Likelihood (n.)** : *probabilité, grande chance, forte chance*

The likelihood of snow this week is not very high.

*Il y a peu de chances que nous ayons de la neige cette semaine.*

**adj. likely** : *probable*

Cold weather is likely tonight and tomorrow.

▶ Attention

**Be likely** se conjugue souvent de manière personnelle (c'est le sujet qui fait l'action), alors que la traduction française est souvent impersonnelle (*il est probable que, il y a des chances pour que*).

Strong winds are likely in the North.

*Il y a une probabilité / Il y a des chances / Il y a un risque de vents violents au nord.*

Are you likely to go swimming if this weather continues?

*Est-ce qu'il y a des chances pour que tu ailles te baigner si ce temps persiste ?*

**Mild (adj.) :** *doux* (pour la température)

The weather tomorrow will be sunny with mild temperatures.

**n. mildness :** *douceur*

**adv. mildly :** *doucement*

Because of the mildness of the day, we decided to take a long walk through the park.

It was a sunny day and the wind blew mildly.

**Moisture (n.) :** *humidité*

Often you can feel the moisture in the air even before the rain starts to fall.

**v. moisten :** *humidifier, humecter, mouiller légèrement*

**adj. moist :** *humide, légèrement humide, moite*

The rain last night moistened the ground just a little, and the garden plants still need more water.

A summer day with hot, moist air is not very comfortable.

**Overcast (adj.) :** *couvert, bouché, sombre*

The day was overcast, but it didn't rain.

**Shower (n.) :** *averse, giboulée*

Take an umbrella with you because there will be rain showers later today.

**Threaten (v.) :** *menacer*

When a hurricane threatens there are several things you can do to protect your house from damage.

**n. threat :** *menace*

**adv. threatening :** *menaçant*

The threat of rainy weather did not stop them from going to the beach.

As soon as they saw the threatening clouds, they went inside.

**Thunderstorm (n.) :** *orage*

You should go inside when there is a thunderstorm.

**n. thunder :** *tonnerre*

**v. thunder :** *tonner*

Thunder is loud and many people are afraid of it.

The storm thundered for a long time.

**Uncertain (adj.) (= unsettled) :** *incertain*

The weather is uncertain—it might rain or it might be sunny.

**n. uncertainty :** *incertitude*

**n. certainty :** *certitude*

**adj. certain :** *certain*

They postponed their trip to the beach because of their uncertainty about the weather.

He forecast the weather with certainty.

Even though the weather forecast mentioned rain, she felt certain that it would be sunny all day.

**Update (n.) :** *mise à jour, actualisation, réactualisation*

There will be another weather update in an hour.

**Weather report (n.) :** *bulletin météorologique*

I listen to the weather report to hear the forecast for the weekend before I make my plans.

|||> Expressions courantes

**Rain cats and dogs** et **rain buckets** signifient tous deux **rain very hard** : *pleuvoir des cordes, tomber des cordes*

**Snowed in** signifie **trapped in your house because of a snow-storm** : *bloqué par la neige*

**Cold snap** ou **cold spell** signifie **short period of cold weather** : *épisode froid, période de froid*

|||> Attention

**Maybe** est en un seul mot. C'est un adverbe et il a le même sens que **perhaps**.

**May be** est formé de deux mots différents, le modal **may** et la base verbale de **be**.

**Maybe** et **may be** ont des sens approchants, mais ils n'ont pas la même nature grammaticale et ne peuvent donc pas s'employer de la même manière.

**Maybe** it will be cold at the beach.

*Peut-être qu'il fera froid à la plage.*

It **may be** cold at the beach.

*Il se peut qu'il fasse froid à la plage.*

## Pratiquez votre vocabulaire

Complétez les bulletins météorologiques suivants avec les mots de la liste qui conviennent. Vous trouverez les corrigés à la page 325.

**hurricane**      **thunderstorms**      **diminish**      **moist**      **likely**

The weather is hot and sunny this morning, but the air is already starting to feel (1) \_\_\_\_\_, and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ accompanied by high winds will arrive by early afternoon. Remember, for your safety, stay inside during an electric storm. These conditions are the result of a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that is moving up the coast. That storm, with its heavy rain and wind, has already caused severe damage on the islands, but it is not (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to pass directly over our region. The winds in our area will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ overnight, and tomorrow will be calm and sunny.

**mild**      **forecast**      **clear up**      **showers**      **hazy**

Welcome to the morning weather (6) \_\_\_\_\_. There will be (7) \_\_\_\_\_ skies this morning, but they will (8) \_\_\_\_\_ by noon, and the rest of the day will be sunny with pleasant, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ temperatures. Enjoy it while you can because tomorrow the clouds will return and we expect rain (10) \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the day. Rain could continue until the end of the week.

**blizzard**      **threat**      **updates**      **overcast**      **uncertain**

(11) \_\_\_\_\_ skies this morning will bring snow later in the day. There is the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of the snowstorm becoming a (13) \_\_\_\_\_, but at this point it is still (14) \_\_\_\_\_. We will have more information about the storm later. Driving conditions may become dangerous this afternoon. Please listen for (15) \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the day.

## Grammaire

### L'expression de la possibilité, de la faible probabilité

May, might et could expriment la possibilité au présent et au futur. Ce sont des modaux. Ils sont suivis d'une base verbale. Ils servent d'auxiliaires pour les formes interrogatives et négatives. On n'emploie donc pas l'auxi-

liaire **do**. **Might** et **could** expriment un degré de probabilité moins fort que **may**. Notez bien les différentes possibilités de traduction.

It may rain later.

*Il se peut qu'il pleuve plus tard. (Il est possible que..., il y a des chances...)*

It might be too cold to go to the beach.

*Il pourrait bien faire trop froid pour aller à la plage. (Il se pourrait que..., peut-être que...)*

The wind could cause a lot of damage.

*Le vent pourrait causer beaucoup de dégâts. (Il se pourrait que...)*

**Might not** et **may not** expriment le fait qu'un événement pourrait ne pas se produire. En général, ces formes ne se contractent pas. **Could not** ou **couldn't** signifie que le locuteur pense qu'il est impossible qu'un événement se produise.

It may not rain. (= It is possible that it won't rain.)

*Il ne pleuvra peut-être pas (Peut-être qu'il ne pleuvra pas. Il se peut qu'il ne pleuve pas).*

It might not be too cold to go to the beach. (= It is possible that it isn't / won't be too cold.)

*Peut-être qu'il ne fait / fera pas trop froid pour aller à la plage (mais j'en doute).*

It couldn't snow. Winter is over. (= It is impossible that it will snow.)

*(Mais non), c'est impossible qu'il neige. L'hiver est terminé.*

On forme généralement les phrases interrogatives avec **could**, mais pas avec **may** ou **might**.

Could there be a thunderstorm later?

*Est-ce qu'il y a une possibilité d'orage (plus tard dans la journée) ?*

*Est-ce qu'un orage serait possible ?*

*Est-ce qu'il pourrait faire de l'orage ?*

On peut aussi utiliser **Do you think?** pour poser des questions portant sur la possibilité. On peut répondre aux questions portant sur la possibilité avec différents niveaux de probabilité ou de certitude.

Q: Do you think it will snow tomorrow?

A: It might. (meaning: I believe it is possible.)

A: It couldn't. (meaning: I believe it is impossible.)

A: Yes, it will. (meaning: I am certain that it will.)

Q: *Est-ce que tu crois qu'il neigera demain?*

R: *Cela se pourrait.*

R: *Non, c'est impossible.*

R: *Oui, il pleuvra.*

### Pratiquez votre grammaire

Choisissez la réponse, la réaction ou l'interprétation qui correspond le mieux pour chaque phrase. Vous trouverez les corrigés à la page 325.

1. It's a warm day but it's very cloudy.
  - (A) It may rain soon.
  - (B) It might get cloudy today.
2. There will be mild temperatures this afternoon.
  - (A) I may not need a sweater.
  - (B) It could be very cold this afternoon.
3. There will be strong winds tonight.
  - (A) The winds might be strong.
  - (B) Trees could fall down.
4. The weather will get colder tonight.
  - (A) Temperatures could be mild tonight.
  - (B) It might snow before morning.
5. It will be cold and overcast for the rest of the week.
  - (A) We may cancel our trip to the beach.
  - (B) It might be sunny today.
6. It will rain later this afternoon.
  - (A) Maybe it will rain today.
  - (B) It couldn't rain! The sky is so clear now
7. The sky is still a little cloudy, but I see a bit of sun.
  - (A) It could clear up before the end of the day.
  - (B) It could be cloudy now.

## Révision lexicale et grammaticale

Vous trouverez les corrigés à la page 325.

### Phrases à compléter

Choisissez le mot qui convient pour compléter les phrases suivantes.

1. A storm is moving in from the east and it could \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow morning.
  - (A) snow
  - (B) to snow
  - (C) snowing
  - (D) will snow

2. It is \_\_\_\_\_ that the blizzard will arrive in our area after midnight so driving will be dangerous in the morning.
  - (A) certain
  - (B) uncertain
  - (C) certainly
  - (D) certainty
3. The sky is overcast now. It may clear up later, or it \_\_\_\_\_ rain.
  - (A) is
  - (B) did
  - (C) couldn't
  - (D) might
4. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ of bad weather for the next several days.
  - (A) threatening
  - (B) threatened
  - (C) threat
  - (D) threatens
5. Although skies will be \_\_\_\_\_ for most of the day, we don't expect any rain until tomorrow.
  - (A) thunder
  - (B) overcast
  - (C) update
  - (D) forecast
6. Although it is raining very hard now, it \_\_\_\_\_ sunny tomorrow.
  - (A) maybe
  - (B) may be
  - (C) might
  - (D) couldn't
7. It rained while I was out walking, but it was just a brief \_\_\_\_\_ and I didn't get very wet.
  - (A) blizzard
  - (B) haze
  - (C) hurricane
  - (D) shower

8. Let's go for our bike ride today because tomorrow it may \_\_\_\_\_ very hot and humid.
- (A) is
  - (B) will
  - (C) be
  - (D) not
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the weather made everyone want to go outside.
- (A) mild
  - (B) moldy
  - (C) mildly
  - (D) mildness
10. We might \_\_\_\_\_ better weather later on in the week.
- (A) had
  - (B) to have
  - (C) have
  - (D) having

2. What will the weather be like on Monday?
- (A) It will definitely snow.
  - (B) It could snow.
  - (C) It will definitely be overcast.
  - (D) It might be mild.
3. The word *mild* is closest in meaning to
- (A) hot
  - (B) cold
  - (C) pleasant
  - (D) uncomfortable
4. The word *forecast* is closest in meaning to
- (A) desired
  - (B) discussed
  - (C) described
  - (D) predicted

## Exercice de compréhension

Lisez le bulletin météorologique ci-dessous, puis répondez aux questions.

### Weather report for Springfield and surrounding towns for Friday, January 10.

The overcast skies this morning will clear up by noon and the afternoon will be bright and sunny. However, the mild temperatures we have been enjoying all week will drop steadily and it will be quite cold by the end of the day. Saturday will continue sunny and cold. The blizzard forecast for Sunday could start as early as Saturday evening. Snow will fall all day Sunday but it is still uncertain whether it will continue into Monday morning. However, temperatures will remain cold.

1. When will it be sunny?
- (A) Friday only
  - (B) Friday and Saturday
  - (C) Saturday and Sunday
  - (D) Sunday only