

# 3&4 Revise and Check

For instructions on how to use these pages see p.39.

## STUDY LINK

- iTutor

## Test and Assessment CD-ROM

- Quick Test 4
- File Test 4

## GRAMMAR

- a 1 a            3 a            5 a            7 c            9 c  
2 c            4 b            6 c            8 a            10 b
- b 1 'll / will be lying  
2 will...have started  
3 has landed / lands  
4 drink  
5 finish / 've finished

## VOCABULARY

- a 1 gate            3 aisle            5 jet lag  
2 baggage reclaim    4 turbulence
- b 1 lately            3 hard            5 especially  
2 even            4 luggage
- c 1 blew            3 poured            5 took  
2 dropped            4 got
- d 1 blizzard (The others relate to wind.)  
2 chilly (The others relate to hot temperatures.)  
3 damp (The others are nouns.)  
4 bright (The others relate to cold temperatures.)  
5 drought (The others relate to storms.)
- e 1 in            3 up            5 place  
2 off            4 after

## PRONUNCIATION

- a 1 hardly            3 lounge            5 trolley  
2 clear            4 humid
- b 1 eventually            3 especially            5 hurricane  
2 gradually            4 passenger

## CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THIS TEXT?

- a No. There are a dozen professionals and a handful of people who have ever tried it.
- b 1 D            2 E            3 A            4 F            5 C

## VIDEO CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THIS FILM?

(2:45))

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 quarter           | 6 cold weather   |
| 2 more extreme      | 7 spring, summer |
| 3 wettest           | 8 revolution     |
| 4 mild              | 9 artists        |
| 5 economy, politics | 10 storm         |

(2:45)) Available as MP3 on CD1

### A Short Film on the British and the Weather

If you've been to Britain, you'll have noticed that British people love to talk about the weather. By the end of their life the average British person will have spent six months discussing it. A recent survey found that a quarter of the population use the weather as a conversation starter and 70 per cent of people check the weather every day.

Recently it has become even more popular as a conversation topic. This is because the weather in Britain is becoming more extreme. In 2013 the country had the coldest spring in 50 years, and 2012 was the wettest year since records began. But in reality this spell of 'severe' weather is nothing compared to the droughts, torrential rain, and devastating storms experienced in other parts of the world. Compared to other countries the British weather is still quite mild. Some people say this is why we love talking about it. The weather is a safe topic of conversation, perfect for the famously reserved British.

But whatever the reason, one thing is certain – this national obsession with weather shapes our everyday lives and has had a huge social impact, influencing the country's economy and its politics. In 2011 the British Chancellor George Osborne blamed the weather for the country's disappointing economic performance because the winter of 2010 had been the coldest and snowiest in decades. He wasn't the first politician to blame the weather. The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown had also used the cold weather as an excuse when the economy wasn't doing well. Rain has also had an effect. In 2012 heavy rain contributed to the very slow growth of the British economy. People stopped going out to buy things in shops, eat in restaurants or socialize in pubs and cafés. Instead they stayed at home and kept their money in their pockets.

But the role of weather in British politics isn't confined to the economy. British elections are almost always held in the spring or the summer. This is because politicians believe people are more likely to come out to vote if the weather is good.

Some experts say that the weather is why the UK has never had a revolution. Britain's mild weather means the country doesn't suffer from the extreme heat or extreme cold, which can often cause food shortages which, in turn, often lead to rebellion.

The British weather has also shaped British culture and it's a constant theme in both literature and art. Many of the great British artists, such as Turner and Constable, found inspiration in Britain's weather. It appears in many famous British plays, books and poems, and features heavily in the work of the country's most famous writer – William Shakespeare.

In fact the weather has even had a huge impact on our language and there are lots of weather idioms in English. If you say you are 'under the weather', it means you're ill, and if you're 'snowed under', you're busy. If you 'weather the storm', it means you survive something, and if you're 'right as rain', you're feeling fine. Come rain or shine the British will always have something to say about the weather. It's part of our daily lives and has influenced who we are, how we live, and how we express ourselves.