

UNIT 3 Strange behaviour

1 Read through the following sayings about the weather and discuss them with a partner. Do you think any of them are true? Do you have similar sayings in your country? Do sayings such as these have any place in our modern world?

- Red sky at night, shepherd's delight, Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning.
- Cows lying in the field means rain is on its way.
- If a cat sneezes, it's a sure sign of rain.

2 You are going to hear part of a radio programme. A writer called Peter Watkins is being interviewed by the programme presenter, Sue Manchester, about his new book, which discusses the behaviour of animals and birds in relation to the weather.

For questions 1–10 decide whether these statements are true or false.

- 1 Sue has little faith in the accuracy of sayings about the weather.
- 2 Peter says that nowadays people are less interested in sayings than in previous times.
- 3 Peter says that low-flying birds suffer badly in storms.
- 4 Peter believes that there is a logical explanation for why certain birds change their habits.
- 5 According to Peter, insects have difficulty in sensing changes in the atmosphere.
- 6 Sue concludes that the rain goose's behaviour is surprising.
- 7 Peter says that weather sayings used to be confined to the farming community.
- 8 Peter says that the sayings fulfilled a basic human need for control.
- 9 Sue agrees with Peter about the contradictory nature of some of the sayings.
- 10 Peter says that in the past people relied on animal and bird behaviour to predict the weather.

Idiom spot

In the recording, Peter Watkins uses two common English idioms: *doom and gloom* and *life and death*.

Pairs of nouns are often used and always in the same order. For example, you can't say *gloom and doom* or *death and life*.

Using a dictionary to help you, decide if these pairs of nouns are in the right order and explain how you would use them.

give and take	black and white
again and time	thick and thin
high and dry	go and touch
fortune and fame	sound and safe
blood and flesh	first and foremost
sixes and sevens	soul and life

Complete the sentences below with the correct idiom.

- a Jenny promised to live with Nigel through
- b The house is at while it's being decorated.
- c When Joe was 18 he left home to find
- d It was whether we would get to the airport in time.
- e, we need to solve the budget problem and then we can move on to other issues.
- f, we see this pattern of behaviour repeating itself.
- g Mrs Parsons thought she'd lost her cat for good, but then it was returned to her
- h There needs to be a bit of in every relationship.
- i My brother James is the of any family party.
- j My aunt treats her relatives really badly, considering they are her own
- k When the company closed I was left without a job.
- l How could you not understand? Look at this letter – it's all there in

3 Both speakers in the recording used words such as *quite*, *rather* and *fairly*, which are adverbs of degree, to modify what they were saying.

- *fairly* means 'moderately'
- *rather* can be used before negative adjectives to mean 'moderately'; it can also be used before positive adjectives to mean 'more than expected'
- *quite* has a variety of meanings, ranging from 'moderately' to 'totally', depending on the tone of voice that is used.

Listen to some sentences which include *quite* being read and then match the speakers 1–5 with the appropriate meaning, a or b.

- a totally
- b moderately

Note that *quite* means 'fairly' before a gradable adjective. These are adjectives which can be modified, such as *good*, *clever*, *helpful*. *Quite* means 'completely' before an ungradable adjective. Ungradable adjectives are those which can't be modified, such as *fantastic*, *brilliant*, *dreadful*, etc.

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4 Use the following adjectives and the adverb of degree specified to talk about the sayings below.

- to be dubious of/about; cautious about; sceptical of (use *rather*)
- mystified by/about; annoyed by/about; convinced by/about (use *quite* meaning 'completely')
- certain of/about (use *fairly*)

EXAMPLE: *I'm quite mystified by what is meant by 'Youth is wasted on the young'. After all, young people usually make the most of the time they are young. I think this is just something old people think because they're jealous.*

- a Men are what their mothers made them.
- b Money is the root of all evil.
- c Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
- d If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and you feed him for life.
- e Imagination is more important than knowledge.
- f Youth is wasted on the young.

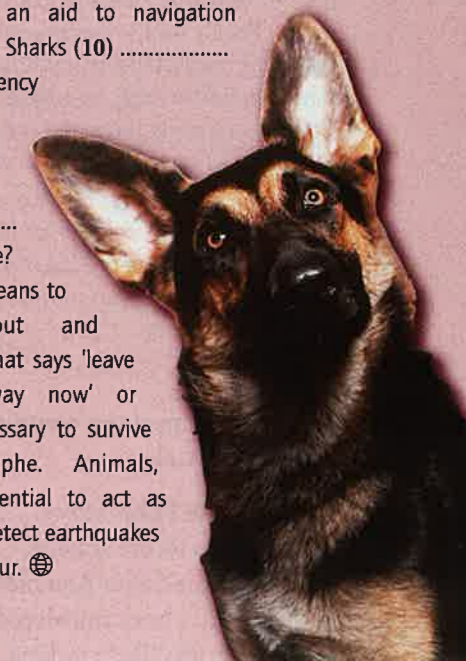
Exam spot

In Paper 3 Part 1 make sure you read through the whole text before attempting to fill in the gaps. Quite often the answer to a gap is dependent on information later on in the passage.

5 Read through the article quickly, ignoring the gaps for now. What is the article about?

Natural Forecasters

Reports of unusual animal behaviour prior (0) the occurrence of earthquakes have been recorded in popular or semi-popular literature dating as (1) back as 1784. However, as (2), there has been (3) in-depth scientific research into the phenomenon and so (4) scepticism of geophysicists and biologists alike is probably justified. However, (5) that a geophysical tool has not been designed (6) gives advance warning of an impending earthquake, observations of animal behaviour might (7) out to be a useful tool. Animals and birds could act as geosensors. (8) is well known that the Earth's electromagnetic field is used by birds and fish as an aid to navigation (9) migration. Sharks (10) use of low or high frequency electro-receptors to detect objects (11) to communicate. Perhaps it is time to (12) this sensitivity to good use? Animals may have the means to (13) out and discriminate the signal that says 'leave this place' or 'fly-away now' or (14) is necessary to survive the coming catastrophe. Animals, therefore, have the potential to act as accurate geosensors, to detect earthquakes (15) they occur. 🌍



6 Read the article again and decide where the following words should go.

the	put	little	before	make
far	sort	it	which	yet
given	whatever	and	turn	during

Review of conditional forms

- 1 How does the weather affect your mood? Do you think people's characters are influenced by where they live and the weather they are used to? Give some examples.



- 2 Read this article about the effect of the wind on mood.

There's an old English saying: *When the wind is in the east, 'tis good for neither man nor beast.* Whether you believe in folklore or not, this one's got a grain of truth in it. Winds have been associated with a rise in the levels of serotonin, a compound which occurs in the brain and which controls mood, sleep and blood circulation. This rise in serotonin has been found to occur in the Swiss population during a Föhn wind. The Föhn is said to be responsible for traffic accidents rising by fifty per cent and a rise in industrial injuries by twenty per cent.

It's not only the Swiss who suffer. Los Angeles is occasionally buffeted by the Santa Ana, a hot dry wind named after the canyon it sometimes blows through. One study found that murders rose by up to a half during a Santa Ana, no matter if it blew during winter or summer. In California's early days, defendants in crimes of passion were able to plead for leniency, citing the wind as an extenuating circumstance.

The quality of the air can be a force for good, however. The Victorians especially prized sea air for its health-giving properties. Sea air is charged with negative ions which makes it feel invigorating. To get a similar effect you can stand next to a waterfall, or even under a domestic shower.

Now, with a partner, complete the sentences using information from the article.

- When the Föhn blows, ...
 - If you go to the seaside, ...
 - Even if the Santa Ana blew at a different time to normal, ...
 - I wouldn't have murdered my wife ...
 - You are less likely to have an accident if ...
 - If I were you, ...
- 3 What kind of conditional is used in each sentence in the exercise above? When do we use these forms?

EXAMPLE: *People can be adversely affected if a certain wind is blowing.*
Zero conditional (present tense + present tense). This is used to express a universal truth or habitual action.

- 4 There are other forms of the conditional besides the four basic patterns. Look at the following examples and discuss how they are formed and what they express.

EXAMPLE:

But for my father's help, I wouldn't have been able to complete my course.
'But for' is used in third conditional sentences and has the meaning of 'If it hadn't been for'.

- Should you happen to see Lucy, tell her to ring me.
- If you would sit down, I'm sure Mr Peterson will see you soon.
- I'll diet if you will.
- You can borrow the money from me as long as you pay me back.
- Had I known about the weather conditions, I wouldn't have ventured out.
- Provided that you tell the truth, nothing will happen to you.
- You could be a lot thinner now, if you hadn't given up your diet so easily.
- Were the Prime Minister to announce lower tax increases, the country would be delighted.
- You can't come unless you have an invitation.

- 5 *If isn't the only conjunction used in conditional sentences. Complete the sentences using the following conjunctions.*

given that	on condition that
but for / without	even if
provided that / as long as	suppose/supposing
unless	

- lightning tends to strike the nearest high point, you would do well not to stand under a tall tree during a thunderstorm.
 - you learn to drive better, I won't be getting in your car again.
 - you use a sun screen, you shouldn't get burnt.
 - the support of my boss, I wouldn't have been promoted.
 - you do say you love me, I'm not marrying you.
 - I'll give you a lift to school you wash the car for me at the weekend.
 - there was an air traffic controllers' strike, what would you do?
- 6 Rewrite each sentence, beginning with the words in italics, without changing the meaning.

EXAMPLE: I didn't drown because my instructor knew how to help me.
Had my instructor not known how to help me, I would have drowned.

- Could you tell her my address if, by any chance, you see her.
Should
- As people were dependent on farming for their livelihood, it's not surprising that they used animal behaviour to predict the weather.
Given that
- You can borrow my bike but you must take care of it.
Provided that
- Kindly have a seat as I'm sure Mr Johnson won't be long.
If
- My advice to you is to get another job.
If
- I'm not earning much money because I didn't work hard enough to pass my diploma.
If
- I wouldn't have been able to afford to go to university except that my grandmother left me some money.
But for
- Climatic changes may, in due course, render weather lore obsolete.
Were

- 7 In groups, ask and answer these questions.

What will you do if

- someone close to you tells you they are going to marry someone you don't approve of?
- you get an e-mail from someone you fancy?
- there's a power cut tonight?
- your mobile phone is stolen?

What would you do if you

- found yourself in an earthquake?
- found out your best friend had lied to you?
- found some money in the street?
- had the chance to go swimming with sharks?

What would you have done if you'd

- seen a robbery on your way home?
- fallen in love with someone much older?
- been born into a richer family?
- been allowed to do everything you had wanted by your parents?