The Guardian

one stop english

New demand for TV presenters to include climate in forecasts

Level: Advanced – Teacher's Notes

Article summary: The article discusses the possibility of including the effects of climate change in weather forecasts in Australia in order to make people more aware of these effects.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

This exercise can be done individually but works better in pairs or small groups as it can provide an opportunity for discussion.

Note: There is some dispute over the accuracy of the answer to question 1 as it was recorded over one hundred years ago when measurements were less reliable, but the World Meteorological Organization recognises this temperature as the hottest ever recorded. The lowest temperature was recorded at the Russian (then Soviet) Vostok base in Antarctica in July, 1983. All the information is correct as of 01/01/2021.

Key:
1. *56.7 degrees Celsius*
2. *California (Death Valley)*
3. *-89.2 degrees Celsius*
4. *Antarctica*
5. *the USA (Yuma, Arizona)*
6. *India (Mawsynram, in the state of Meghalaya)*

2. Key words

If students are having problems, encourage them to locate the words in the text as the context may help them to clarify the meaning. Encourage students to compare answers in pairs or small groups (in breakout rooms if teaching online) before checking answers with the whole group.

Key:
1. *heatwave*
2. *polarized*
3. *bulletin*
4. *compile*
5. *meteorology*
6. *game-changer*
7. *magnitude*
8. *breakthrough*
9. *phenomenal*
10. *ethereal*

Ask students questions to encourage them to use some of the words actively. Questions you could ask include:

1. When was the last heatwave in your country? How hot was it? How long did it last?
2. Can you think of issues in your country where people have polarized opinions?
6. Can you think of examples of game-changers in science, medicine, transport etc.?
9. What is the most phenomenal music or sporting event you have ever seen?

Other vocabulary you could focus on at this point includes:

- the expression *it's about time*, which indicates that the speaker is annoyed that something has happened later than it should have
- the phrasal verb *lay out*, meaning *explain* in this context
- the expression *run parallel*, meaning *happen at the same time*.

3. Comprehension check

Ask students to complete this activity individually, looking back at the text if necessary. When checking the answers, you could also ask them to explain their choices by highlighting sentences or phrases that helped them make those choices.

New demand for TV presenters to include climate in forecasts

Level: Advanced – Teacher's Notes

Key:
1. b
2. c
3. c
4. b
5. a
6. b

4. Using key language

a. Encourage students to try and match the words to form the two-word phrases without looking back at the text. Note that the phrase *overwhelming majority* is normally taken to mean at least 90% of people.

   Key:
   1. e
   2. c
   3. d
   4. a
   5. b

b. In task b, the words occur in the same order as in task a, so the gap in question 1 is *climate change* and so on. Give students time to think about their answers to these questions and to make notes before you ask them to feed back to the group.

5. Discussion

These questions can also be given as a homework task so students can think about their responses and make notes. If done in class, give students time to prepare their answers before opening up the discussion.

6. In your own words

The aim of this activity is for students to produce a short piece of writing using statistics and other information they can find using an online search engine. Ideally, this should be done as a homework task. When giving feedback to the group, highlight any significant errors that are common to many members of the group and ask students to provide the corrections.