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Grade 12 Advanced Speaking Topics

(16-03-2021)

Weather

Have you ever been in a hot air balloon? Would you like to?

Well ... that's an interesting question. I've never tried such a wonderful (**hair-raising**) adventure, but I'd love to. Although it might seem a dangerous experience, I guess, it would be great. But, unfortunately, I don't think this dream can be easily achieved, at least in the near future, as keeping a social distance would not be that easy inside such a small basket space. So, I have to wait until the covid-19 pandemic is over to go for an exciting hot air balloon ride.

What do you think are the perfect weather conditions for a hot air balloon ride?

Well ... that's a tricky question. Let me think for a moment, please... Well ... there must be a cool temperature for air ballooning. When heated to a certain degree, the air inside the balloon expands, and becomes lighter than the air surrounding it. This makes it lift and float through the air moving up into the sky. If the air surrounding the balloon is too warm, it won't be able to rise. So, I think the best time of the day for a perfect safe ride would be early in the morning, when there is a light wind. There are also some other weather features to consider, such as visibility, wind speed and possibility of rain or storms.

What is the most extreme weather you have ever experienced?

Well ... I've got tones of (**a lot of**) stories to tell about (**I've been exposed to many**) bad weather conditions I've experienced (**I've seen**), but I'll talk about a foggy day I'll never forget (**that can't be easily forgotten**). It was a Saturday, late at night, something around 11.30 while I was coming back home from Ras Al Khaimah with my family in our car. We stopped at a petrol station to have a meal and get some rest, then we continued our journey. At about 1.00 a.m., some thick blotches of fog started to make the visibility of the road ahead very poor. Soon, my father couldn't

see the other cars or any other objects on the road. It was as if a blanket of fog had covered everything. Unfortunately, we had to stop our car by the road. We had to spend about 7 hours sleeping inside it before the fog started to disappear at about 8 in the morning. While driving on the road, we saw some traffic accidents that had been made because of that dense fog. Of course, we went back home completely exhausted, and couldn't do anything that day. This was the worst weather condition I've ever seen.

Which countries do you think have the worst weather?

Well ... I've googled this question once and found that there are three countries which are thought to have the worst weather. These are Japan, the Philippines and Germany which were hit by the hardest weather extremes.

What is the weather like in your hometown/the UAE?

Well ... the UAE has got a desert climate that includes four seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall. The summer is usually extremely hot and humid, with a temperature sometimes (**occasionally**) reaching over 50 degrees Celsius, especially in July and August. However, the winter and spring are nice and pleasant. It's usually sunny and cool.

Well ... of course, we can't deny that the UAE sometimes experiences (**sees-witnesses**) some extreme weather conditions including dust winds, foggy mornings and blizzards. Generally, we can say, that the UAE weather is better than many other countries around the world most of the year, which makes it one of the best international travel destinations.

What is your favourite type of weather? Why?

Well ... that's an interesting question. I know that most people, especially students would prefer the summer when they get a long holiday from school. Nevertheless, (**But, Yet, By contrast, In contrast, On the other hand, However, On the other side,**) I'd prefer the winter/spring when you can see things growing around you.

Everywhere you go, you see green trees and smell beautiful flowers. Also, you can enjoy the sunny cool weather when you can naturally get free vitamin D from the direct sun rays.

How does the weather affect the activities people enjoy?

Well ... of course, the type of weather significantly affects people's activities. For example, if there is too much fog or strong wind, people can't get out of their homes. By contrast, when it's nice, people can enjoy lots of activities. Personally, my best activity ever, is a winter morning walk when I can breathe the pure refreshing air. I'm actually such a person who loves nature very much. So, I would say, the better the weather, the more activities people would be able to do. For instance, you can just think of how many musical shows or sports games which have been cancelled due to bad weather. For this reason, I guess, we should closely follow the weather forecast to help us plan the suitable outdoor activities.

When was the last time there was a severe weather event, like a rainstorm? What happened?

Well ... the last time I saw a severe weather was about 2 years ago. It was a normal winter day when, suddenly, a strong dust wind changed everything. The level of visibility was very poor, and we had to stay at home. We had received some warning messages from the traffic police to avoid driving on main roads at that time. It took some hours before that extremely bad weather condition was over.

Tell me about your hometown or city. Where is it located?

Well ... I come from a small town (a big city) called (Mirfaa). It's a quite (very) quiet place about 160 kilometres west (east) of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE. It's got a stunning beach as it's a coastal city overlooking the Arabian Gulf.

Well...I come from a very nice town called (Ghayathi). It's located, approximately (about) 280 kilometres, west of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE. It's got wonderful weather because it's at the heart of the desert, far away from any pollution. In addition, it's surrounded by a green belt of green farms which makes it a healthy place to live in. It's also about 50 kilometres from a stunning beach called Gabal AlDhana, where we often go to at weekends.

Well... I come from a nice city called (Ruwais). It's a quiet place near the sea. It's about 260 kilometres west of Abu Dhabi. It has mainly been a housing complex for ADNOC employees, but it's continuously getting bigger and bigger. It's got a lovely

beach on the Arabian gulf with its fascinating view. It's about 120 kilometres from the borders of Saudi Arabia.

Where is your favourite place to go? Why?

Well ... there's a wide variety of (lots of) exciting places to go to in my beautiful city, but the most special one for me has always been the fascinating beach where I can swim and play on the sand with my friends. There are also some attractive public parks where families can go for exciting picnics. Furthermore, people can go to social and sports clubs to meet their like-minded friends and enjoy themselves. Unfortunately, access to these very nice places has been temporarily restricted to some extent coz of the outbreak of the Corona virus, but I hope, we'll be able to enjoy all the popular attractions very soon.

What type of outdoor activities do people enjoy doing?

Well ... there's a wide range of outdoor activities people in my city usually enjoy. These may include going fishing, swimming, or sunbathing on the stunning beach. Moreover, they can play football, volleyball, basketball or go to the GYM to do some exercise and keep fit and healthy. Others might prefer to have a quiet walk with their families or friends along the lovely beach, especially in the early morning or at sunset when they can enjoy the pleasant gentle breeze coming from the sea.

Would you say that it is a good place to live? Why?

Well ... I'm extremely happy to live in such a wonderful place coz it's quite safe and attractive, and it offers a wide variety of recreation (entertainment) facilities. In addition, it's a vibrant multi-cultural (cosmopolitan) society where lots of people from different cultural backgrounds (countries) live in perfect social harmony. Most importantly, we don't have any traffic jams or parking problems coz the number of people living there is not that big.