





Natural Disasters



a storm thunder lightning a gale a hurricane
a tornado a heat wave a blizzard a flood
a tsunami an earthquake a drought a landslide

a storm very bad weather with lots of rain, snow, wind, etc.:
There was a terrible storm last night.






The adjective for *storm* is *stormy*: *It was a very stormy night.*

thunder the loud noise that comes from the sky during a storm:
*Last night I was woken up by the thunder. Also: a **thunderstorm***



lightning a bright light in the sky caused by electricity during a storm, usually followed by thunder: *A man was hit by lightning last night.*





We say *thunder and lightning* not ~~*lightning and thunder*~~.

a gale a very strong wind: *There will be gales in the south tonight.*



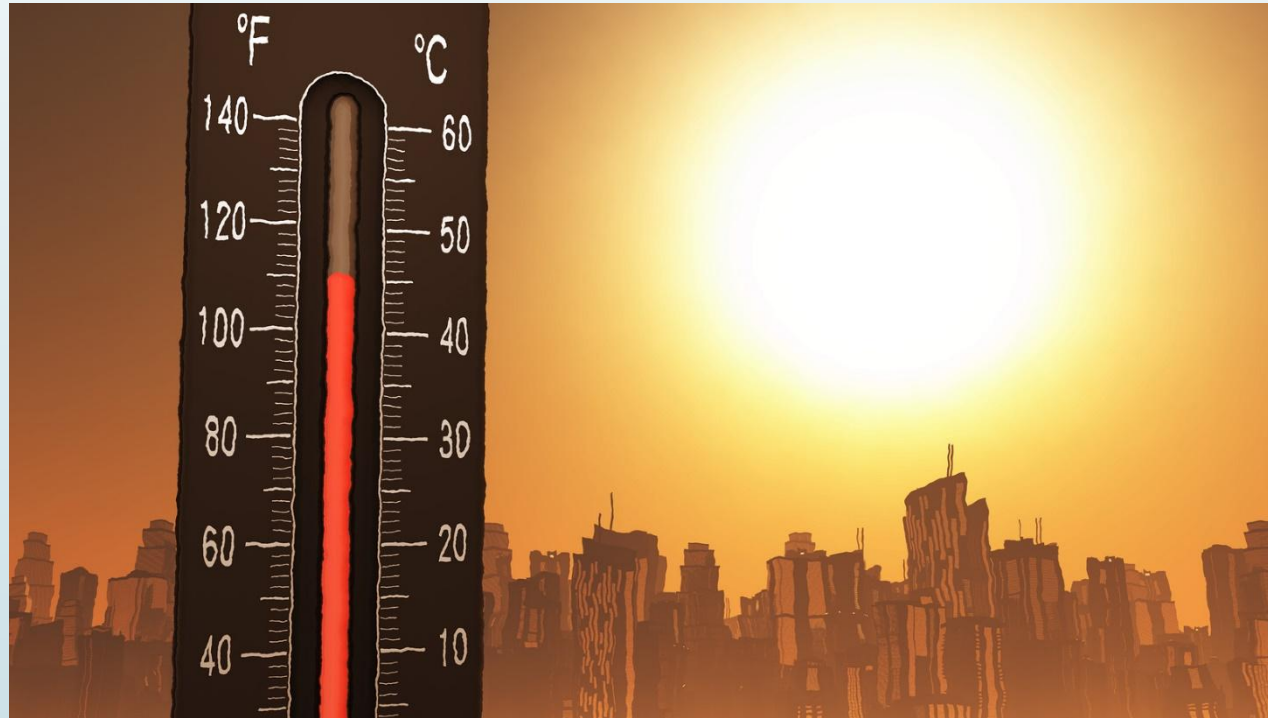
a hūrrricane (= a typhoon /tai'fu:n/ or a cȳclone) a violent storm with extremely strong winds: *Dozens of houses were destroyed by last night's hurricane.*



a tornādo (US: a twister) an extremely strong and dangerous wind that blows in a circle and destroys buildings: *There are often tornados in the Caribbean in the summer.*



a heat wave a period of unusually hot weather that continues for a long time: *The heat wave in Texas has been going on for over a month.*




a blizzard a very bad snow storm with strong winds: *We got stuck in a blizzard for six hours.*



a flood /flʌd/ when a lot of water covers an area that is usually dry, especially when it rains a lot or a river becomes too full: *There have been floods in many parts of India.*





Flood is a noun and a verb: *The whole village was flooded.*

an earthquake /'ɜːθkweɪk/ a sudden violent movement of the Earth's surface, often causing a lot of damage: *In 1906 parts of San Francisco were destroyed by a huge earthquake.*



a tsunami an extremely large wave that can cause a lot of damage when it hits the coast: *The tsunami in Asia was one of the most powerful ever recorded.*



a drought /draut/ a long period of time with no rain and not enough water for plants and animals: *The drought in north Africa has continued for over six months.*



a landslide when a large quantity of rocks and earth falls down the side of a mountain: *The landslide closed the road through the mountains for over a month.*



a storm



thunder



lightening



a gale



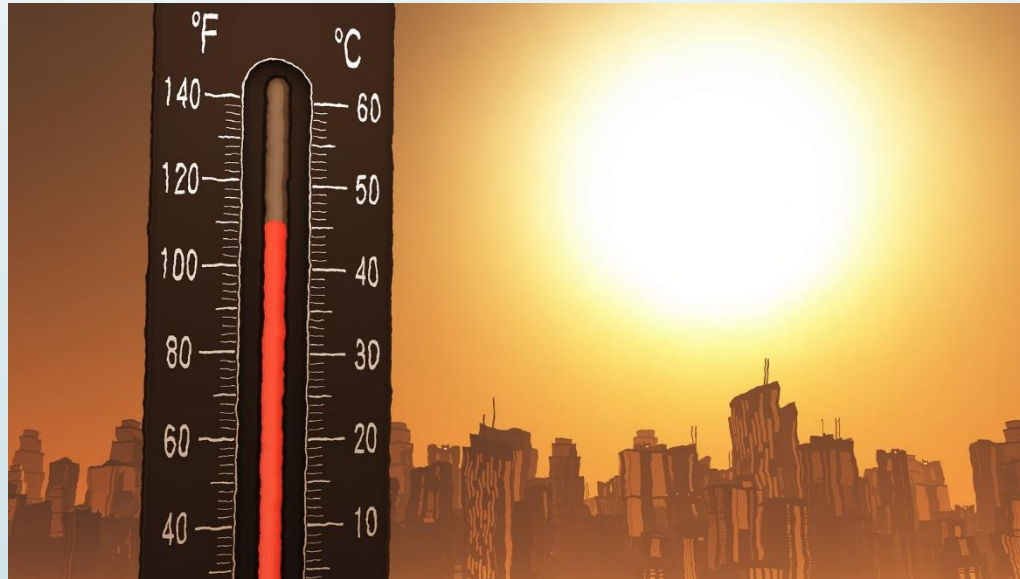
a hurricane



a tornado



a heat wave



a blizzard



a flood



an earthquake



a tsunami

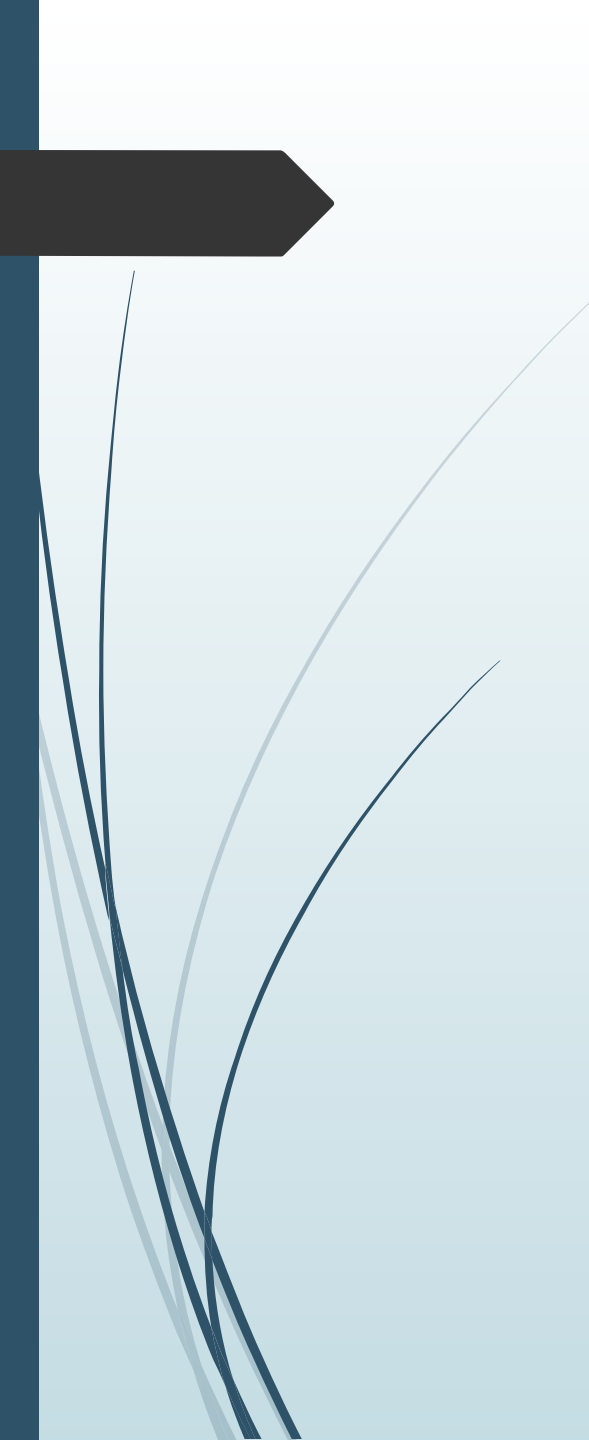


a drought



a landslide





Work in groups. Discuss these questions.

- 1** Have there been any stories about bad weather or natural disasters in the news recently? If so, where? What happened?
- 2** Have you ever experienced very bad weather? If so, tell the group what happened.
- 3** Do you think the weather where you live has changed since you were a child? If so, how?