The weather forecast

Whether people watch it on TV, listen to it on the radio or check it online: everyone is interested in the weather forecast. ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to help you understand it.

PRACTICE
Now try the following exercises to practise the language of weather forecasts.

Exercise 1
Match the sentence halves to complete the definitions.

A. A gentle breeze is...
B. A sunny spell is...
C. A heavy shower is...
D. Unsettled weather is...
E. Precipitation is...

1. a short period of strong rainfall.
2. rain, snow or hail that falls on the ground.
3. a pleasant, light wind.
4. a short period of sunshine.
5. weather that may change within a short time.

Exercise 2
What are the adjectives and verbs related to the nouns in brackets?

A. It was so (fog) that I couldn’t see the car in front of me.
B. We had (storm) weather with strong winds and heavy rain.
C. It’s not really raining. It’s just (drizzle).
D. I hate cycling in winter. The roads can get very (ice).
E. It was (cloud) in the morning, but then the sun broke through.

Exercise 3
Underline the correct options in bold to complete the sentences below.

A. Tomorrow, we will have bright / light sunshine throughout the day.
B. Minimal / Minimum temperatures should be around 20 degrees.
C. A western / westerly breeze will bring a few showers.
D. Daytime temperatures may get / reach 28 to 30 degrees.
E. The sky will remain completely covered / overcast throughout the day.

Small talk
The weather is probably one of the most popular topics for small talk, and people often begin a conversation by commenting on it. Note that “weather” is an uncountable noun, so don’t say, for example: “What a lovely weather!” Instead, you could say “What a lovely day!” or “Lovely weather, isn’t it?”

And now, the weather...

The unsettled weather is likely to continue. Today’s temperatures will be average for the time of year, reaching around 23 degrees Celsius, with broken clouds and a few sunny spells. Occasional light rainfall, accompanied by a gentle south-westerly breeze, is possible during the afternoon in northern parts of the region.

Tonight will be dry at first, but the early morning hours could see some heavy showers. Minimum temperatures will be no lower than 14 degrees.

Friday will be overcast at first, becoming brighter in the afternoon. The sunshine will continue until Saturday afternoon, when the wind will shift to the east, followed by bursts of rain in the evening. The low pressure system from the Atlantic will bring more precipitation on Sunday, with night temperatures dropping to seven degrees.

VOCABULARY
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