

Student worksheet: Climate change – new words

How to solve these tasks successfully:

Check if the following things are right. If you cannot tick off all of them, tell your teacher about the problem. As soon as everything is in order, you are ready to start!

- My computer is running.
- It is connected to the internet.
- I have the text my teacher provided ready for digital use.
- I received a handout.



Tasks

1) Discovering new words

- a. Read the article and highlight unfamiliar words.
- b. Pick three unfamiliar words you want to learn more about. Fill in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Information about new words (N = noun, V = verb, ADJ = adjective, ADV = adverb)

Unfamiliar word	Synonyms	Definition	Most frequent collocates
Example: <i>climate</i>	<i>atmosphere,</i> <i>weather</i>	<i>The weather in some location averaged over some long period of time</i>	1: <i>climate change</i> 2: <i>global climate</i> 3: <i>climate science</i>
...			1: 2: 3:
...			1: 2: 3:
...			1: 2: 3:

2) Let's talk about temperature (see handout → Task 2 for instructions)

a. What kinds of temperatures and temperature phenomena exist?

First, we want to look at words that refer to persons, animals or (abstract) things. This word class is called: A) noun, B) adjective, C) adverb, D) verb.

(Circle the correct answer.)

No idea at all? Find help at the bottom of the last page of your handout.

Now try to find collocates of *temperature* which belong to this word class. Give two examples for each collocate: one where the word stands before and one where it comes after *temperature*. Discuss with partner what these words could mean.


Fill in Table 2 below. 

Table 2: Different kinds of temperatures and temperature phenomena

Collocates of <i>temperature</i>	Notes (questions, explanations etc.)
1. _____ temperature	
2. _____ temperature	
3. temperature _____	
4. temperature _____	

b. How can we describe temperatures?

Words that *describe* what people and things are like are called:

A) nouns, B) verbs, C) adverbs, D) adjectives.

(Circle the correct answer.)

No idea at all? Find help at the bottom of the last page of your handout.

Give two examples for each collocate of this word class: one where the word stands before and one where it comes after *temperature*. Have a quick chat with your partner about what these words could mean.


Fill in Table 3 below. 

Table 3: How can we describe temperatures?

Collocates of <i>temperature</i>	Notes (questions, explanations etc.)
1. _____ temperature	
2. _____ temperature	
3. temperature _____	
4. temperature _____	


c. What can temperature “do”?







Words that refer to *actions* are called: A) adverbs, B) adjectives, C) verbs, D) nouns.

(Circle the correct answer.)

No idea at all? Find help at the bottom of the last page of your handout.

Find words of this word class that express what temperature “does” when it gets warmer or colder. Find three examples each. Write them down in Table 4 (always include the word *temperature*).

Table 4: What can temperature “do”? 

Temperature → higher/ warmer	Temperature → lower/ colder
 <i>temperature</i> _____	
	
	

3) Finished already? Well done! Here’s more! (see handout → Task 3 for instructions)

a. Either ... or ...?

Recently, discussions about climate change have become increasingly louder.

If you want to inform others about climate change and its consequences, you will need to provide facts. Use the corpus to find out which collocation is more frequent for each sentence pair below. Circle the sentence most likely to be used by a native speaker of English.

A) The average <u>temperature rises</u> .	Frequency: _____
The average <u>temperature increases</u> .	_____
B) It is necessary to <u>reduce emissions</u> .	_____

It is necessary to <u>decrease emissions</u> .	_____
C) CO2 <u>gas is emitted</u> .	_____
CO2 <u>gas is released</u> .	_____

b. What could I say instead?

In the text, we find the phrase *average temperature*. What else could you say instead of *average*? Find the three most common synonyms that also go with *temperature* and write them down together with their frequency number.

Table 5: Synonyms of *average*

	Synonym + <i>temperature</i>	Frequency per million
example	<i>average</i> temperature	
1	_____ temperature	
2	_____ temperature	
3	_____ temperature	

c. Homework: How to organise new vocabulary

Now you know a lot of new vocabulary. Organise the new phrases in a mind map (see below).

Don't let a word stand on its own – always add a suitable collocate. Feel free to search for more expressions to expand the list! You could start like this:

