# Solutions to the student worksheet: "Climate change – new words" (Homework not included)

#### 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

Unfamiliar word	Synonyms	Definition	Most frequent collocates
Example: climate	atmosphere, weather	The weather in some location averaged over some long period of time	1: climate change 2: (to) change climate 3: global climate
fluctuation	variation, instability	The quality of being unsteady and subject to fluctuations; an instance of change	1: temperature fluctuation 2: price fluctuation 3: quantum fluctuation
rapid	fast	Done or occurring in a brief period of time	1: rapid growth 2: rapid change 3: rapid development
hostile	adverse, harsh	Characterised by enmity or ill will	1: hostile environment 2: hostile takeover 3: more hostile

Note: These are only examples of words the students might want to know more about.

#### 2) Let's talk about temperature (see handout $\rightarrow$ 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, first. This word class is called: 

A) noun, B) adjective, C) adverb, D) verb. (Circle the correct answer.)

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.

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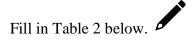


Table 2: Different kinds of temperatures and temperature phenomena

Collocates of "temperature"	Notes (questions, explanations etc.)
1. <u>surface</u> temperature	<pre>surface = 'exterior, outside'; 'the outermost level of the land or sea'</pre>
2. <u>water</u> temperature	
3. temperature <i>change</i>	change can also be a verb collocate of temperature. Do not mix them up!
4. temperature <u>record</u>	

#### **b.** How can we describe temperatures?

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

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

Table 3: How can we describe temperatures?

Collocates of temperature	Notes (questions, explanations etc.)
1. <u>high</u> temperature	

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2. <u>average</u> temperature	
3. temperature- <u>sensitive</u>	Usually connected to <i>temperature</i> by way of a hyphen to form one single adjective
4. temperature <u>high</u>	high can stand before and after 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.)

Find words of this word class that express what temperature "does" when it gets <u>warmer</u> or <u>colder</u>. 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
temperature <u>rise(s)</u>	temperature fall(s)
temperature increase(s)	$temperature \frac{drop(s)}{s}$
temperature <u>climb(s)</u>	temperature <u>decrease(s)</u>

## 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.

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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: <u>17</u>	
The average <u>temperature increases</u> .	<u>10</u>	
B) It is necessary to <u>reduce emissions</u> .	<u>465</u>	
It is necessary to <u>decrease emissions</u> .	<u>9</u>	
C) CO2 gas is emitted. <sup>1</sup>	<u>0</u>	
CO2 gas is released.	<u>10</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 + temperature	Frequency per million
example	average temperature	570
1	<u>mean</u> temperature	207
2	<u>normal</u> temperature	45
3	median temperature	6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> You might not find any results when searching for gas is emitted. Write down "0" for frequency.

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