

**In the News****19<sup>th</sup> January 2015****1. The winter season**

It is mid-winter... but is it a good winter? It is warmer – or milder – than usual, isn't it?

There is little snow in the valleys. Is there enough snow on the mountains?

Is it a good winter for tourists, or the ski-lift companies?

What is a good winter for you? With lots of snow for skiing, or not much snow?

And do you think the climate is changing?

**Vocabulary:** some/and, little/less/least, much/many/a lot  
warm/cold, freezing, melt, snow, ice, artificial snow, temperature, average  
downhill skiing, ski-touring, cross-country skiing, off-piste, powder snow  
tourism, income, bookings, higher/lower, increase/decrease  
climate change, global warming, higher altitude, lower altitude

*Level 1 – can you talk about how much snow there is, and what you/tourists are doing?*

*Level 2 – can you talk about what has happened and what has changed?*

*Level 3 – can you include good connectives in your conversation (due to, provided that, unless)?*

**2. New Year's Resolutions – or plans for 2015?**

Will 2015 be a good year for you? What will happen this year?

Do you have any resolutions or plans for the year ahead?

What is going to happen in Tirol / Austria / Europe / the world?

**Vocabulary:** plan, intend, intention, aim, target  
holiday, travel, work, career, sport, family  
election, economy, religion, migration, challenge, conflict, issue

*Level 1 – can you use the future forms 'will' and also 'could'?*

*Level 2 – can you use the future forms 'might' and 'going to'?*

*Level 3 – can you use if-1 and if-2 sentences in your conversation?*

**3. Low oil prices**

The oil price (of crude oil) is half what it was a year ago.

Have you noticed the price at the pumps in petrol stations? Are you driving more?

Do you use oil for your heating? When did you fill your tank?

What do you think the effects of the low oil price will be – on the economy, on food prices, on Russia, on the USA, on the climate?

**Vocabulary:** price, cost, higher/lower, increase/decrease, better/worse, cheaper/more expensive  
petrol station, central heating, green energy, renewable energy, carbon dioxide  
inflation, deflation, boost, crisis, demand, supply

*Level 1 – can you use comparatives and superlatives in your conversation? (more/less etc.)*

*Level 2 – can you make longer sentences with connectives: and so / because / which*

*Level 3 – can you use the passive in your conversation?*