

Reading: Summer weather

3rd September 2014

Topics: weather, holidays

Learning points:

- vocabulary
- adverbs
- past tenses

1 Level 1

2 Did you enjoy the summer? The weather was quite nice in June, but in August we had
3 lots of rain and the temperature was too cold. It was the wettest and coldest August for
4 8 years. Do we get a cold, wet summer every ten years? What do you think?

Superlatives:
wettest, coldest

5
6 Did you go away on holiday? Perhaps you went south to the Mediterranean Sea, to Italy,
7 Greece or Turkey. There was lots of sunshine in those countries.

Present, past
and future: do,
did, will.

8 Will we have an Indian Summer in September and October? I don't expect it. The
9 Almbtrieb in Reith is on the 28th September this year, and it is nearly always sunny for
10 the Almbtrieb. We will have to wait and see.

must = have to

11

12 Level 2

13 How was your summer? I thought that the summer started quite nicely, with a fine June,
14 but August was pretty awful, with the 14th lowest amount of sunshine since 1884.
15 It seems that we get a terrible summer about every ten years. Would you agree with
16 that, from your personal experience?

Adverbs: nicely,
pretty

17

18 Have you been away to find some summer sunshine, perhaps around the
19 Mediterranean? It has been a good season in Greece, but I heard that some Italian
20 resorts have had only 30% of their normal business because of the bad weather.

Present Perfect:
unfinished past

21 What are the chances of an Indian Summer this year? My expectations are not high, but
22 I am looking forward to the weekend of the Almbtrieb in Reith (on the 28th September)
23 because so far it has always been sunny on that day in the past 14 years (except for
24 once, I think).

Expressions:
it seems;
I am looking
forward to...

25

26 Level 3

27 Well, the summer wasn't exactly great, was it? I would describe August as a washout.
28 It didn't even occur to me once to go swimming in the Achensee, for example. What
29 about you? Although I can't remember the last bad summer, apparently we get
30 miserable summers like this about once every ten years. Which on the positive side
31 means that hopefully we have another decade of hot weather ahead of us!

Question tag

32

33 Have you been away anywhere with summer sunshine this year? It was reported in the
34 news that Greece had had a very good season, while some resorts in northern Italy had
35 been also suffering from a washout as well as from a long-term lack of investment.

Reported
speech with past
perfect

36

37 On the bright side, we might get an Indian Summer this year to compensate.
38 However, I don't rate the chances very highly, apart from the weekend of the 28th
39 September, which is the date of the Almbtrieb in Reith and therefore will almost
40 certainly be fine and sunny, as it has been virtually without exception over the past 14
41 years. Unless that very fact means that it is due for a once-a-decade event, that is!

Expression:
to rate one's
chances

More
connectives!