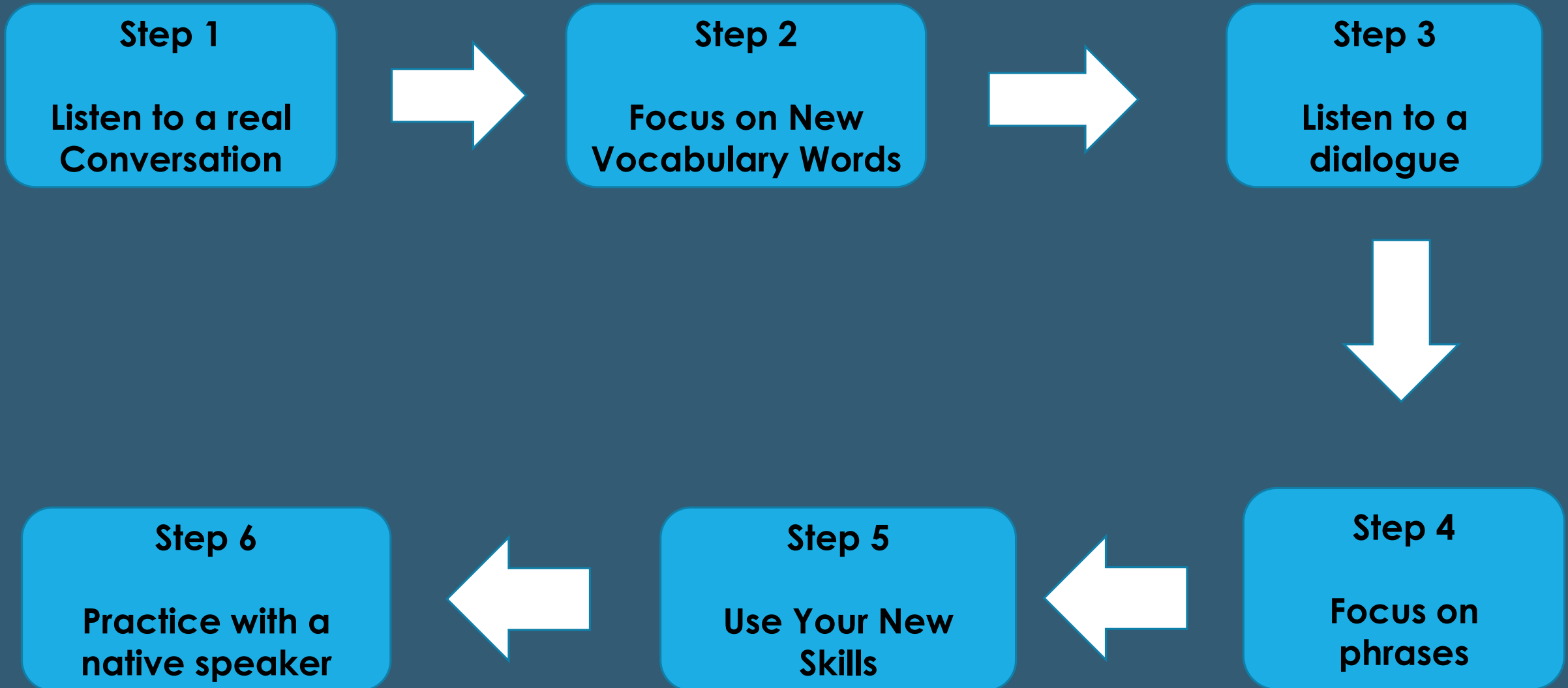




# How to Interpret and Discuss a Weather Report in English

## A Vocabulary Lesson

# Our Method



# Step 1: A Winter Weather Report



**Please listen to Audio Step 1 - A Winter Weather Report**

**Do you know how to watch a weather report and understand it? In this conversation you will hear 3 native speakers discussing a typical weather report in English.**

**Please view Transcript Step 1 - A Winter Weather Report**

## Step 2: Focus on New Vocabulary Words

**To bundle  
up**

**Flurries**

**Picked up**

**Black ice**

**Cold snap**

**Mild**

**Taper off**

**Snow  
showers**



# Cold snap

Noun



**A period of time when the temperature is abnormally cold and below the average temperature**

***We had a few cold snaps during the winter of 2014.***

# **To bundle up**

**Phrasal verb**



**To put on many layers of clothing to protect against cold weather**

***If you plan to go out in the evening in January, you have to bundle up.***

**Mild**

**Adjective**



**Not strong, moderate, the opposite of extreme**

***We are expecting a mild winter with an average temperature of 45 degrees.***



# Flurries

Noun



**Light flakes of snow that usually occur before the snow gets more intense**

***It's not snowing too hard outside, there are just a few flurries here and there.***



# **Taper off**

**Phrasal verb**



**To gradually reduce in intensity. This term is only used to talk about the intensity of snow.**

***It snowed for a while this morning and then it tapered off.***

**Pick up**

**Phrasal verb**



**To increase in intensity and strength**

***The snow picked up after lunch and now it is snowing quite hard.***

# Snow showers

noun



**Snow coming down with a lot of intensity and speed,  
accumulating quickly**

***We had snow showers all weekend so we couldn't take the car  
out.***



# **Black ice**

**noun**



**A thin coating of transparent ice on a surface, usually on the road or sidewalk**

***When you walk early in the morning, watch out for black ice.***



## Step 3: Three Conversations about the Weather

Do you know how to talk about the weather in English? Learn how to communicate in these situations:

- Canceling a ski trip due to the cold weather
- Reflecting on a blizzard in the past
- Talking about a weather-related injury

**Listen to Audio Steps 3 and 4-  
Three Conversations about the  
Weather**



## Step 4: Focus on the Vocabulary Phrases

Learn the new vocabulary in context!

Please open Transcript Steps 3 and 4 – Three Conversations about the Weather

- “We’re going to be getting a bit of a cold snap...”
- ...”if you just bundle up...”
- “Temperatures are supposed to be mild at the end of next week.”
- “It started off with a few flurries.”
- “The weather service said they would taper off.”
- “The winds just picked up.”
- “Flurries turned into snow showers”
- “I slipped on a sheet of black ice.”

# Bonus! Say It Another Way!

Learn how to say the phrases in a different way!

**Click on the file “Say It Another Way”**

## Step 5: Use Your New Skills

**Black ice**

**Taper off**

**Cold snap**

**Bundle up**

**Flurries**

**Mild**

**Pick up**

**Snow  
showers**

A: What's the weather forecast like for the weekend?

B: I think we're going to get a \_\_1\_\_ (cold period). You'd better \_\_2\_\_ (dress warmly)

A: Are we expecting \_\_3\_\_ (light snow) or will the snow \_\_4\_\_ (increase) and turn into \_\_5\_\_ (heavy snow)

B: I'm not sure. I haven't seen a weather report.



# Step 5 answers

- 1- cold snap
- 2- bundle up
- 3- flurries
- 4- pick up
- 5- snow showers

**Bundle up**



**Mild**



**Taper off**



# Prepare Your Vocabulary Cards

**Snow showers**



**Pick up**



**Cold snap**



**Flurries**



**Black ice**



# Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 1

Please role play the following situation using these phrases and then switch roles: **Black ice, cold snap, flurries**

**Conversation partner:** You are hoping to go out this evening to a nightclub but the weather is bad- start the conversation- *"Hey- let's go out tonight...."*

**Student:** your friend wants to go out but you want to stay home because of the bad weather

**Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) *Hey let's go out tonight. I know it just started snowing, but it's only \_\_\_\_\_(flurries).*

B: No way- I'm staying in. We're in the middle of a \_\_\_\_\_ (cold snap)

A: *Ah come on. Don't be such a whimp.*

B: I'm not being a whimp. I just don't feel like slipping on a sheet of \_\_\_\_\_ (black ice) and breaking my neck.

# Bonus conversation 1 answers

**Bonus Conversation 1: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way** (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Hey let's go out tonight. I know it just started snowing, but it's only **light snow**.

B: No way- I'm staying in. We're in the middle of a **string of cold days**.

A: Ah come on. Don't be such a whimp.

B: I'm not being a whimp. I just don't feel like slipping on **a sheet of clear ice** and breaking my neck.



# Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 2

Please role play the following situation using these phrases and then switch roles: **taper off, mild, snow showers**

**Conversation partner:** You just got into a car accident because you were driving in the snow. Tell your partner what happened.

**Student:** You are worried about your friend. Ask about the accident. *Start the conversation- Hey there's a huge dent in the car, what happened?*

**Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way** (A= friend, B= friend)

*A: (student) Hey you have a bump on your forehead and there's a dent in the car door. What happened?*

*B: Oh I got into an accident. The \_\_\_\_\_ (snow showers) had \_\_\_\_\_ (tapered off) and the weather seemed \_\_\_\_\_ (mild) so I went out for a drive.*

*A: But I guess you didn't realize that there was still a lot of snow on the roads. Did you lose control of the car?*

*B: Yeah, I went into a ditch and hit another car on the side of the road.*

*A: Well, let's call the insurance company. I'm glad you're ok at least.*

# Bonus conversation 2 answers

**Bonus Conversation 2: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way** (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) Hey you have a bump on your forehead and there's a dent in the car door. What happened?

B: Oh I got into an accident. The **heavy snow** had **died down** and the weather seemed **warm** so I went out for a drive.

A: But I guess you didn't realize that there was still a lot of snow on the roads. Did you lose control of the car?

B: Yeah, I went into a ditch and hit another car on the side of the road.

A: Well, let's call the insurance company. I'm glad you're ok at least.

# Step 6: Practice with a Native Conversation 3

Please role play the following situation using these phrases and then switch roles: **pick up, bundle up**

**Conversation partner:** You climbed Mt. Everest last year in a blizzard. Tell the story.

**Student:** You are curious about climbing Mt. Everest and you ask your friend to tell you about his/her experience. *Start the conversation- So I heard you climbed Mt. Everest last year in the middle of a blizzard, what was that like.....?*

**Bonus Conversation 3: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way**(A= friend, B= friend)

A: *(student) So I heard you climbed Mt. Everest last year? What was that like? You must have really \_\_\_\_\_(bundled up)*

B: Oh yes, I did. It was a scary experience actually. I am lucky to be around to talk about it. I would never climb it again in February.

A: *Really? Tell me more*

B: Well the weather service said it was a mild February so it was ok to climb, but when we were halfway up the mountain, the winds\_\_\_\_\_ (picked up) and a storm came in.

# Bonus conversation 3 answers

**Bonus Conversation 3: Please use the phrases from Say It Another Way** (A= friend, B= friend)

A: (student) So I heard you climbed Mt. Everest last year? What was that like? You must have really **put on a lot of layers**.

B: Oh yes, I did. It was a scary experience actually. I am lucky to be around to talk about it. I would never climb it again in February.

A: Really? Tell me more

B: Well the weather service said it was a mild February so it was ok to climb, but when we were halfway up the mountain, the winds **got stronger** and a storm came in.



# Additional conversation questions

- Describe the weather in the wintertime in your hometown using some of the words from this module.
- How do you feel about the weather in your hometown? Does it suit your personality and your lifestyle?
- What is the best season for weather in your hometown?
- Describe one of your best “weather memories” (a big snowstorm spent inside with family, a rainstorm, a heat wave where you spent the week at the beach)

# More questions

- To what extent do you think that the weather influences our mood? Do you think that it's true that warmer and sunnier climates tend to make people friendlier?
- What differences do you notice in your home country between the warm places and the cold places?
- In your opinion, what is the best way to spend a snow day? (Inside reading by the fire, outside playing in the snow, etc.)
- If you could choose to live permanently in a warm or a cold climate, which one would you choose and why?

# More questions

- What other questions do you have about weather vocabulary?

# Credits

- Cold snap: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/desiitaly/>
- Cover photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jbrons/>
- Bundle up: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/brettlider/>
- Mild: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/giopuo/>
- Flurries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dhutchman/>
- Taper off: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rowdykittens/>
- Blizzard bike: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jasonpersse/>
- Pick up: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/norio-nakayama/>
- Snow showers: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/topsteph53/>
- Black ice: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/n28307/>