

## The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/11/17

### Winter

Winter is one of four seasons. It follows autumn and precedes spring. In the northern hemisphere, winter is between December and March. It's the darkest and coldest time of the year in Europe, as the nights are long and the days short. The shortest day of the year is December 21\*.

We associate snow, frost, and ice with winter. It's when icicles form and hang from buildings and snowflakes really are snowflakes and not just people. It's the time of the year when you put that winter coat on and wrap up well to keep warm. Inside your house you light that log fire and look out at the snow piled up outside.

December is the month for Christmas markets. Originating in Germany, they have spread right across Europe. Christmas markets are the place to buy a variety of Christmas goodies, meet your friends, and enjoy a glass of mulled wine, as the snow falls around you.

Winter is when people like to do winter sports. Skiing holidays are highly popular. The Alps in Europe are a hotspot for skiers. Italy, France and Switzerland offer some superb ski slopes, as does Slovakia, and Bulgaria. In Central Europe folk also like to ice skate on frozen lakes and ice rinks.

You can build a snowman in winter or maybe have a snowball fight. One can go sledging, tobogganing or snowboarding. You could even visit a spa and sit in the hot tub. If you are really good at winter sport you could possibly take part in the winter Olympics.

Of course not everyone likes winter. Old people dislike it, as they may not have enough heating to keep themselves warm. Animals hibernate. When the snow falls it looks really nice. The downside is when it starts to melt the snow turns to sludge – a mixture of snow and dirty water.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about winter. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What is a Christmas market?
- 2) What is mulled wine?
- 3) What is a snowman?
- 4) What is a hot tub?
- 5) What does 'hibernate' mean?

#### Student B questions

- 1) What is sludge?
- 2) It's that time of year to do what?
- 3) Where is good to go skiing?
- 4) When is the shortest day of the year?
- 5) What is a snowflake?

**Note:** \* The shortest day before the start of a leap year is (often) 22<sup>nd</sup> December, because of the gradual calendar spillage.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can about **'Winter'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Finish these sentences starting them with the words "Winter..."

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three things you like about winter. Discuss!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

### SPEAKING – PRESENTATION

*In pairs* – Prepare a two minute presentation on: *Things to do in my town/city/country in winter.*

### SPEAKING – SONGS/MOVIES/BOOKS

*In pairs* – In two minutes, think of as many books, movies, and songs, which have a reference to *winter* in them. Discuss together as a class.

### SPEAKING – SEASONS

*In pairs* – Compare the seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter. What are the things you like and dislike about each of them?

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) What do you like to do inside in winter?
- 3) Do you ever visit a Christmas market?
- 4) When did you last build a snowman?
- 5) Have you ever been tobogganing?
- 6) Do you care for old people in winter?
- 7) Do you go skiing in winter?
- 8) Does it snow in your country in wintertime?
- 9) What is the best thing about winter?
- 10) What is the worst thing about winter?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Winter.*

- 1) A Scottish farmer.
- 2) A Norwegian taxi driver.
- 3) A Swiss ski slope manager.
- 4) A Singapore hotel owner.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING – PRESENTATION

*In pairs* – *Student A* thinks winter is great. You prefers it to any other season. *Student B* prefers another season. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

**30 fun winter activities to do – Use these headers to help you!**

**WINTER: nostalgic - indoors – outdoors – holiday – eat and drink - simply because...**

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you have a log fire where you live?
- 3) Have you ever been ice skating on a lake or on an ice rink?
- 4) What winter sports do you like to do?
- 5) What do you like to watch at the winter Olympics?
- 6) Have you ever visited the Alps? If yes, when and why?
- 7) Have you ever visited a spa in winter? If yes, describe it.
- 8) What do you think of sludge?
- 9) What do you like to do outside in winter?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## GAP FILL: READING

### Winter

Winter is one of four (1)\_\_. It follows autumn and precedes spring. In the northern (2)\_\_, winter is between December and March. It's the darkest and coldest time of the year in Europe, as the nights are long and the days short. The shortest day of the year is December 21.

We associate snow, frost, and ice with winter. It's when (3)\_\_ form and hang from buildings and snowflakes really are (4)\_\_ and not just people. It's the time of the year when you put that (5)\_\_ coat on and (6)\_\_ well to keep warm. Inside your house you light that (7)\_\_ fire and look out at the snow piled up outside.

December is the month for Christmas markets. Originating in Germany, they have spread right across Europe. Christmas markets are the place to buy a (8)\_\_ of Christmas goodies, meet your friends, and enjoy a glass of mulled wine, as the snow falls around you.

**wrap up / icicles / seasons / snowflake / variety / log / hemisphere / winter**

Winter is when people like to do winter sports. Skiing holidays are highly popular. The Alps in Europe are a hotspot for skiers. Italy, France and Switzerland offer some (1)\_\_ ski slopes, as does Slovakia, and Bulgaria. In Central Europe folk also like to ice skate on frozen lakes and ice rinks.

You can build a snowman in winter or maybe have a snowball fight. One can go sledging, (2)\_\_ or snowboarding. You could even visit a spa and sit in the (3)\_\_. If you are really good at winter sport you could possibly take part in the winter Olympics.

Of course not everyone likes winter. Old people (4)\_\_ it, as they may not have enough heating to keep themselves warm. Animals (5)\_\_. When the snow falls it looks really nice. The downside is when it starts to (6)\_\_ the snow turns to (7)\_\_ – a (8)\_\_ of snow and dirty water.

**mixture / sludge / superb / hibernate / melt / tobogganing / hot tub / dislike**

## GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

### Winter (find the gaps in this one!)

Winter is one of four seasons. It follows autumn and precedes spring. In northern hemisphere, winter is between December and March. It's the darkest and coldest time of year in Europe, as nights are long and the days short. Shortest day of year is December 21.

We associate snow, frost, and ice with winter. It's when icicles form and hang from buildings and snowflakes really are snowflakes and not just people. It's the time of year when you put that winter coat on and wrap up well to keep warm. Inside your house light that log fire and look out at snow piled up outside.

December is the month for Christmas markets. Originating in Germany, they have spread right across Europe. Christmas markets are the place to buy a variety of Christmas goodies, meet your friends, and enjoy a glass of mulled wine, the snow falls around you.

**the / as / the / the / the / the / the / you**

Winter is when people like to do winter sports. Skiing holidays are highly popular. The Alps (1)\_\_ Europe are a hotspot for skiers. Italy, France and Switzerland offer (2)\_\_ superb ski slopes, as does Slovakia, and Bulgaria. In Central Europe folk (3)\_\_ like to ice skate on frozen lakes and ice rinks.

(4)\_\_ can build a snowman in winter or maybe have a snowball fight. One can go sledging, tobogganing or snowboarding. You could (5)\_\_ visit a spa and sit in the hot tub. If you are really good at winter sport you (6)\_\_ possibly take part in the winter Olympics.

Of course not everyone likes winter. Old people dislike it, as they may not have enough heating to keep themselves warm. Animals hibernate. (7)\_\_ the snow falls it looks really nice. The downside is when it starts to melt the snow turns to sludge – a mixture (8)\_\_ snow and dirty water.

**when / could / also / even / some / you / of / in**



**GAP FILL: LISTENING**

**WRITING/SPELLING**

**Winter**

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superb ski slopes, as does Slovakia, and Bulgaria. In Central Europe folk also like to \_\_\_\_\_ and ice rinks.

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**WRITING / SPEAKING**

**1) On the board** - *In pairs/As a class*, list **10 things associated with wintertime and nature**. Talk briefly about each of them. *Five minutes*.

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

1) Winter \_\_\_\_\_

2) I think \_\_\_\_\_

3) Winter in my country \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Write down 50 words about: *Winter***. Your words can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Winter***.

**SPELLING**

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) originating
- 2) hotspot
- 3) frozen
- 4) snowman
- 5) possibly
- 6) Olympics
- 7) themselves
- 8) dislike
- 9) enough
- 10) hibernate

**SPELLING**

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) downside
- 12) mixture
- 13) seasons
- 14) hemisphere
- 15) autumn
- 16) icicles
- 17) snowflake
- 18) variety
- 19) Switzerland
- 20) tobogganing