

## N. Korea leader unhappy with weather forecasts

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2014



North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un is unhappy with the weather forecasts in his country. He was angry with the meteorological department for giving "incorrect" forecasts. It is very unusual for a North Korean leader to be negative about any part of the government. Mr Kim was visiting one of his country's weather stations when he made the comments. He said the techniques used to predict the weather were wrong. He told forecasters to use more modern equipment. He told reporters it was important to protect people's lives, homes and factories. North Korea has many natural disasters and has many famines, so it is necessary to have accurate weather forecasts.

North Korean people regularly suffer from very bad food shortages. There are many droughts and floods, which means many people do not have enough food to eat. In May, the country's newspapers said North Korea was hit by one of the worst droughts in over 30 years. This has increased the chances of more food shortages. In the mid-1990s there was a very bad famine. Wikipedia says no one knows how many people died of starvation but says the number is between 240,000 and 3,500,000. North Korea needs a lot of food aid from other countries. Many people would die if they did not get this help. However, a lot of this food does not reach the people who need it the most.

Sources: *The Guardian* / *Wikipedia* / *scmp.com*

### Writing

What things can you do in hot weather and cold weather? Which is better? Why?

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*unhappy / weather forecasts / unusual / negative / comments / modern equipment / regularly / droughts and floods / famine / food shortages / starvation / chances*

### True / False

- North Korea is trying to change the weather his country gets. T / F
- N. Korean leaders rarely talk badly about government departments. T / F
- Kim Jong-un told weather forecasters to update their equipment. T / F
- The leader said accurate forecasts would save lives. T / F
- It is very rare for North Koreans to have food shortages. T / F
- A recent drought in N. Korea was among the worst in three decades. T / F
- The exact number of dead in a famine in the 1990s was 3.5 million. T / F
- Every country has stopped food aid to North Korea. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. unhappy    | a. often          |
| 2. incorrect  | b. methods        |
| 3. techniques | c. badly affected |
| 4. predict    | d. displeased     |
| 5. necessary  | e. get to         |
| 6. regularly  | f. likelihood     |
| 7. hit        | g. wrong          |
| 8. chances    | h. help           |
| 9. aid        | i. forecast       |
| 10. reach     | j. needed         |

### Discussion – Student A

- What natural disasters does your country get?
- Are there ever shortages of anything in your country?
- How can we help people in famines?
- Why doesn't anyone know how many people died in North Korea's big famine?
- What's the hungriest you've ever been?
- Will there be a time when no one on Earth dies of hunger?
- Why doesn't all the food aid reach the people who need it?
- What questions would you like to ask a weather forecaster?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. It is very
  2. visiting one of his country's
  3. use more modern
  4. natural
  5. have accurate
  6. suffer from very bad food
  7. droughts and
  8. hit by one of the worst droughts
  9. no one knows how many people
  10. reach the people
- a. weather stations
  - b. who need it the most
  - c. disasters
  - d. floods
  - e. unusual
  - f. equipment
  - g. died of starvation
  - h. shortages
  - i. weather forecasts
  - j. in over 30 years

## Discussion – Student B

- a) How do you like the weather in your country?
- b) What do you think of weather forecasts?
- c) Have you been angry because a weather forecast was wrong?
- d) What's your favourite kind of weather?
- e) Is Kim Jong-un right to be unhappy with weather forecasters?
- f) How often do you look at or listen to weather forecasts?
- g) Do you think being a weather forecaster is a good job?
- h) What will the weather be like where you are in the next few days?

## Spelling

1. giving rcioetrn forecasts
2. be nvteeag about any part
3. isecqhnetu used to predict the weather
4. homes and itcrsofae
5. natural tsaidsres
6. uacacert weather forecasts
7. people grlruleay suffer
8. food rghotseas
9. the worst dtrgsouh in over 30 years
10. a very bad menifa
11. people died of ntivaatso
12. echra the people who need it

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. b	4. i	5. j
6. a	7. c	8. f	9. h	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – Rain

You think rain is the best weather to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their types of weather. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): snow, sunshine or wind.

### Role B – Snow

You think snow is the best weather to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their types of weather. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rain, sunshine or wind.

### Role C – Sunshine

You think sunshine is the best weather to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their types of weather. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): snow, rain or wind.

### Role D – Wind

You think wind is the best weather to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so good about their types of weather. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): snow, sunshine or rain.

## Speaking – Weather events

Rank these with your partner. Put the ones you like most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- rain
- snow
- wind
- rainbows
- 35-degree heat
- storms
- -5 degrees C
- mist and heavy fog

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.