

Heat Waves in Summer

B2 Reading, Vocabulary & Grammar Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: New Words & Phrasal Verbs

Read the words and their meanings.

Word / Phrasal Verb	Meaning
brace for	to prepare yourself for something difficult or unpleasant
flare up	to suddenly become worse or more intense
stem from	to be caused by or originate from something
clamp down on	to take strict action to stop or control something
hold out	to survive or resist under difficult conditions
relentless	not stopping or becoming less intense; constant
escalate	to become rapidly worse or more serious
tide (someone) over	to help someone get through a difficult period, usually temporarily
wear off	to gradually disappear or lose effect
give way to	to be replaced by something else, often something worse

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Part 2: Reading

This text uses the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd conditionals. Read the text.

Authorities across southern Europe are bracing for yet another spell of extreme heat this week, as temperatures threaten to flare up again after a brief cooler spell. Meteorologists say the current pattern stems from a stable high-pressure system that has settled over the region and shows no sign of shifting.

If temperatures continue to rise at this rate, several countries will introduce emergency measures by the weekend. Local governments have already started to clamp down on non-essential water usage, and some cities plan to restrict outdoor work during the hottest hours if conditions worsen further.

If global emissions were significantly lower, extreme weather events would be far less common, according to many scientists. Even so, most experts agree that today's infrastructure simply wasn't built to hold out against such relentless heat, regardless of how quickly governments acted now.

If authorities had invested in better cooling infrastructure years ago, thousands of people wouldn't have suffered from heat-related illnesses last summer. Some critics claim that if the warnings had been taken seriously at the time, this crisis might never have escalated to such an extent. Instead, the effects of prolonged heat exposure have only worsened, and any short-term relief from occasional rain has quickly worn off.

For now, communities are trying to tide themselves over with makeshift solutions: shared cooling centres, extended opening hours at libraries, and public appeals to check on vulnerable neighbours. Whether these measures will be enough remains to be seen, but experts warn that unless meaningful action is taken soon, this kind of extreme weather could soon give way to something even more dangerous.

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Part 3: Vocabulary Practice — Match the word to the meaning

Write the correct letter in the blank.

Word		Meaning
1. brace for	___	A. to be replaced by something else, often something worse
2. flare up	___	B. not stopping or becoming less intense; constant
3. stem from	___	C. to become rapidly worse or more serious
4. clamp down on	___	D. to be caused by or originate from something
5. hold out	___	E. to take strict action to stop or control something
6. relentless	___	F. to help someone get through a difficult period, usually temporarily
7. escalate	___	G. to survive or resist under difficult conditions
8. tide (someone) over	___	H. to suddenly become worse or more intense
9. wear off	___	I. to gradually disappear or lose effect
10. give way to	___	J. to prepare yourself for something difficult or unpleasant

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Part 4: Synonyms (same meaning)

Circle the option with the same meaning.

1. Which option means the same as "brace for"?

☐ A) prepare for

☐ B) forget about

☐ C) celebrate

2. Which option means the same as "flare up"?

☐ A) worsen suddenly

☐ B) disappear slowly

☐ C) stay the same

3. Which option means the same as "relentless"?

☐ A) constant and unstoppable

☐ B) occasional

☐ C) mild

4. Which option means the same as "escalate"?

☐ A) worsen rapidly

☐ B) improve gradually

☐ C) stay stable

5. Which option means the same as "wear off"?

☐ A) fade away

☐ B) get stronger

☐ C) begin suddenly

Part 5: Antonyms (opposite meaning)

Circle the word with the opposite meaning.

1. Which word means the opposite of "flare up"?

☐ A) die down

☐ B) explode

☐ C) worsen

2. Which word means the opposite of "relentless"?

☐ A) occasional

☐ B) constant

☐ C) severe

3. Which word means the opposite of "escalate"?

☐ A) de-escalate

☐ B) accelerate

☐ C) continue

4. Which word means the opposite of "hold out"?

☐ A) give up

☐ B) survive

☐ C) resist

5. Which word means the opposite of "wear off"?

☐ A) intensify

☐ B) fade

☐ C) disappear

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Part 6: Grammar — Which conditional is used?

Read each sentence from the text. Circle 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Conditional.

1. "If temperatures continue to rise at this rate, several countries will introduce emergency measures."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "Cities will restrict outdoor work if conditions worsen further."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

3. "If global emissions were significantly lower, extreme weather events would be far less common."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

4. "If governments acted more decisively, the crisis would improve."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

5. "If authorities had invested in better cooling infrastructure years ago, thousands of people wouldn't have suffered."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

6. "If the warnings had been taken seriously, this crisis might never have escalated."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

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Part 7: Grammar — Choose the correct verb form

1. If temperatures ____ to rise, several countries will introduce emergency measures.

- ☐ A) continue
- ☐ B) continued
- ☐ C) had continued

2. If global emissions ____ significantly lower, extreme weather events would be less common.

- ☐ A) are
- ☐ B) were
- ☐ C) had been

3. If authorities ____ in cooling infrastructure years ago, thousands wouldn't have suffered.

- ☐ A) invested
- ☐ B) had invested
- ☐ C) invest

4. Cities will restrict outdoor work if conditions ____.

- ☐ A) worsen
- ☐ B) worsened
- ☐ C) had worsened

5. If the government ____ faster, fewer people would be affected.

- ☐ A) acts
- ☐ B) acted
- ☐ C) had acted

6. If the warnings ____ seriously, the crisis might never have escalated.

- ☐ A) were taken
- ☐ B) had been taken
- ☐ C) are taken

7. If it ____ tomorrow, the heat wave will finally break.

☐ A) rains

☐ B) rained

☐ C) had rained

8. If scientists ____ about this risk decades ago, they would have warned us sooner.

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☐ C) had known

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B2 Worksheet

Part 8: Grammar — Change the conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If emissions fall, temperatures will stabilise."

☐ A) If emissions fell, temperatures would stabilise.

☐ B) If emissions have fallen, temperatures will stabilise.

☐ C) If emissions fall, temperatures would stabilise.

2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If governments act now, fewer people will suffer."

☐ A) If governments had acted, fewer people would have suffered.

☐ B) If governments act now, fewer people would suffer.

☐ C) If governments acted now, fewer people will suffer.

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If we invested in cooling infrastructure, costs would fall."

☐ A) If we invest in cooling infrastructure, costs will fall.

☐ B) If we had invested in cooling infrastructure, costs would have fallen.

☐ C) If we invested in cooling infrastructure, costs will fall.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If the heat wave continues, more people will be affected."

☐ A) If the heat wave had continued, more people would have been affected.

☐ B) If the heat wave continues, more people would be affected.

☐ C) If the heat wave continued, more people will be affected.

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If authorities take action, the crisis will ease."

☐ A) If authorities took action, the crisis would ease.

☐ B) If authorities have taken action, the crisis will ease.

☐ C) If authorities take action, the crisis would ease.

Part 9: Word Scramble

Put the words in the correct order. Write the full sentence.

1. say / Meteorologists / the / current / pattern / stems / from / a / stable / high-pressure / system.

Your sentence: _____

2. Local / already / governments / have / started / to / clamp / down / on / non-essential / water / usage.

Your sentence: _____

3. Today's / infrastructure / wasn't / simply / built / to / hold / out / against / such / relentless / heat.

Your sentence: _____

4. effects / The / of / prolonged / heat / exposure / have / only / worsened.

Your sentence: _____

5. kind / This / of / extreme / weather / could / soon / give / way / to / something / even / more / dangerous.

Your sentence: _____

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Part 10: Dialogue — Complete the conversation

Sophie and Marcus talk about the heat wave. Circle the best word or phrase for each blank.

Sophie: Have you seen how bad this heat wave has gotten?

Marcus: Yeah, it's relentless. If it ____ (1) ____ any hotter, I think the whole region will grind to a halt.

Sophie: I know. Apparently the crisis ____ (2) ____ from a high-pressure system that just won't move.

Marcus: If the government ____ (3) ____ more decisively last year, we wouldn't be in this mess now.

Sophie: True. Honestly, I don't know how much longer the infrastructure can ____ (4) ____ out.

Marcus: Cities are starting to ____ (5) ____ down on water usage already.

Sophie: Good. If they ____ (6) ____ that sooner, maybe things wouldn't have escalated so fast.

Marcus: Let's hope this cooler spell isn't just temporary relief that will ____ (7) ____ off by tomorrow.

Sophie: Fingers crossed. Otherwise this could ____ (8) ____ way to something even worse.

1. Blank 1

☐ A) gets

☐ B) got

☐ C) had gotten

2. Blank 2

☐ A) stems

☐ B) stemmed

☐ C) has stemmed

3. Blank 3

☐ A) had acted

☐ B) acted

☐ C) acts

4. Blank 4

☐ A) hold

☐ B) held

☐ C) holding

5. Blank 5

☐ A) clamp

☐ B) clamped

☐ C) clamping

6. Blank 6

☐ A) had done

☐ B) did

☐ C) do

7. Blank 7

☐ A) wear

☐ B) worn

☐ C) wearing

8. Blank 8

☐ A) give

☐ B) gave

☐ C) given

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Answer Key

Part 3: Vocabulary Matching

1. brace for → J
2. flare up → H
3. stem from → D
4. clamp down on → E
5. hold out → G
6. relentless → B
7. escalate → C
8. tide (someone) over → F
9. wear off → I
10. give way to → A

Part 4: Synonyms

1. Which option means the same as "brace for"?

☒ A) prepare for ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) forget about

☐ C) celebrate

2. Which option means the same as "flare up"?

☒ A) worsen suddenly ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) disappear slowly

☐ C) stay the same

3. Which option means the same as "relentless"?

☒ A) constant and unstoppable ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) occasional

☐ C) mild

4. Which option means the same as "escalate"?

☒ A) worsen rapidly ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) improve gradually

☐ C) stay stable

5. Which option means the same as "wear off"?

☒ A) fade away ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) get stronger

☐ C) begin suddenly

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Answer Key

Part 5: Antonyms

1. Which word means the opposite of "flare up"?

☒ A) die down ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) explode

☐ C) worsen

2. Which word means the opposite of "relentless"?

☒ A) occasional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) constant

☐ C) severe

3. Which word means the opposite of "escalate"?

☒ A) de-escalate ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) accelerate

☐ C) continue

4. Which word means the opposite of "hold out"?

☒ A) give up ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) survive

☐ C) resist

5. Which word means the opposite of "wear off"?

☒ A) intensify ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) fade

☐ C) disappear

Part 6: Which Conditional is Used?

1. "If temperatures continue to rise at this rate, several countries will introduce emergency measures."

☒ A) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

2. "Cities will restrict outdoor work if conditions worsen further."

☒ A) 1st Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

3. "If global emissions were significantly lower, extreme weather events would be far less common."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☒ B) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

4. "If governments acted more decisively, the crisis would improve."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☒ B) 2nd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) 3rd Conditional

5. "If authorities had invested in better cooling infrastructure years ago, thousands of people wouldn't have suffered."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☒ C) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

6. "If the warnings had been taken seriously, this crisis might never have escalated."

☐ A) 1st Conditional

☐ B) 2nd Conditional

☒ C) 3rd Conditional ✓ CORRECT

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Answer Key

Part 7: Correct Verb Form

1. If temperatures ____ to rise, several countries will introduce emergency measures.

☒ A) continue ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) continued

☐ C) had continued

2. If global emissions ____ significantly lower, extreme weather events would be less common.

☐ A) are

☒ B) were ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) had been

3. If authorities ____ in cooling infrastructure years ago, thousands wouldn't have suffered.

☐ A) invested

☒ B) had invested ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) invest

4. Cities will restrict outdoor work if conditions ____.

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5. If the government ____ faster, fewer people would be affected.

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☒ B) acted ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) had acted

6. If the warnings ____ seriously, the crisis might never have escalated.

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☒ B) had been taken ✓ CORRECT

☐ C) are taken

7. If it ____ tomorrow, the heat wave will finally break.

☒ A) rains ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) rained

☐ C) had rained

8. If scientists ____ about this risk decades ago, they would have warned us sooner.

☐ A) know

☐ B) knew

☒ C) had known ✓ CORRECT

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Answer Key

Part 8: Change the Conditional

1. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If emissions fall, temperatures will stabilise."

☒ A) If emissions fell, temperatures would stabilise. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If emissions have fallen, temperatures will stabilise.

☐ C) If emissions fall, temperatures would stabilise.

2. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If governments act now, fewer people will suffer."

☒ A) If governments had acted, fewer people would have suffered. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If governments act now, fewer people would suffer.

☐ C) If governments acted now, fewer people will suffer.

3. Change to 1st Conditional: "If we invested in cooling infrastructure, costs would fall."

☒ A) If we invest in cooling infrastructure, costs will fall. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If we had invested in cooling infrastructure, costs would have fallen.

☐ C) If we invested in cooling infrastructure, costs will fall.

4. Change to 3rd Conditional: "If the heat wave continues, more people will be affected."

☒ A) If the heat wave had continued, more people would have been affected. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If the heat wave continues, more people would be affected.

☐ C) If the heat wave continued, more people will be affected.

5. Change to 2nd Conditional: "If authorities take action, the crisis will ease."

☒ A) If authorities took action, the crisis would ease. ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) If authorities have taken action, the crisis will ease.

☐ C) If authorities take action, the crisis would ease.

Part 9: Word Scramble

1. say / Meteorologists / the / current / pattern / stems / from / a / stable / high-pressure / system.

✓ Meteorologists say the current pattern stems from a stable high-pressure system.

2. Local / already / governments / have / started / to / clamp / down / on / non-essential / water / usage.

✓ Local governments have already started to clamp down on non-essential water usage.

3. Today's / infrastructure / wasn't / simply / built / to / hold / out / against / such / relentless / heat.

✓ Today's infrastructure simply wasn't built to hold out against such relentless heat.

4. effects / The / of / prolonged / heat / exposure / have / only / worsened.

✓ The effects of prolonged heat exposure have only worsened.

5. kind / This / of / extreme / weather / could / soon / give / way / to / something / even / more / dangerous.

✓ This kind of extreme weather could soon give way to something even more dangerous.

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Answer Key

Part 10: Dialogue

1. Blank 1

☒ A) gets ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) got

☐ C) had gotten

2. Blank 2

☒ A) stems ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) stemmed

☐ C) has stemmed

3. Blank 3

☒ A) had acted ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) acted

☐ C) acts

4. Blank 4

☒ A) hold ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) held

☐ C) holding

5. Blank 5

☒ A) clamp ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) clamped

☐ C) clamping

6. Blank 6

☒ A) had done ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) did

☐ C) do

7. Blank 7

☒ A) wear ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) worn

☐ C) wearing

8. Blank 8

☒ A) give ✓ CORRECT

☐ B) gave

☐ C) given