

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

## Lesson 2 — Level B2

### Language Focus

In Lesson 1 you met the basics. This lesson digs into the more colourful end of Irish heatwave talk — the exaggerations, the sarcasm, and the classic Irish habit of complaining about weather most other countries would be delighted to have. These phrases are heard constantly in casual conversation, but rarely appear in writing.

| Word / Phrase                    | Meaning                                                                     | Example                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mighty warm                      | An ironic, understated way of describing very hot weather.                  | <i>"Mighty warm today, isn't it?" she said, fanning herself with a folded newspaper.</i>             |
| Cooking                          | Very hot, especially in an enclosed or crowded space.                       | <i>The kitchen was cooking by the time the dinner rush started, even with the fan on full blast.</i> |
| You'd be destroyed with the heat | You would feel completely overwhelmed or worn out by the heat.              | <i>You'd be destroyed with the heat standing out there for the parade.</i>                           |
| Lethal heat                      | Extremely intense heat (an informal intensifier, not literally dangerous).  | <i>That's lethal heat altogether — we'll need extra water breaks on the site today.</i>              |
| Savage heat                      | Extremely intense heat (another informal Irish intensifier).                | <i>There's savage heat in that greenhouse, be careful not to overdo it.</i>                          |
| I'm dying with the heat          | I feel extremely uncomfortable because of the heat (exaggerated, informal). | <i>I'm dying with the heat in this office, honestly.</i>                                             |
| I'm banjaxed with the heat       | I'm completely exhausted because of the heat.                               | <i>I'm banjaxed with the heat after cutting the grass this morning.</i>                              |
| Belting down sun                 | The sun is shining very strongly and continuously.                          | <i>There was belting down sun all afternoon, not a cloud in sight.</i>                               |
| Would ya look at that heat       | An exclamation drawing attention to how hot it is.                          | <i>Would ya look at that heat — sure it's like a different country altogether.</i>                   |

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| Word / Phrase                                             | Meaning                                                                              | Example                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jaysis, the state of the heat                             | An exclamation commenting on how extreme or unpleasant the heat is.                  | <i>Jaysis, the state of the heat below in Cork today — it was unbearable.</i>                  |
| Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat | A self-deprecating remark about being unprepared for unusual heat.                   | <i>Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat, we're not used to it at all.</i> |
| We're not built for this heat                             | A remark suggesting the country or its people aren't adapted to cope with such heat. | <i>We're not built for this heat, that's for certain — the whole country grinds to a halt.</i> |

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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## Reading

*Context: Opinion column*

Ah Sure, We're Just Not Built For It

There's a moment every Irish summer when the temperature creeps past the mid-twenties and the whole country seems to collectively lose its mind. It happened again last week, and the reaction was, as always, magnificent to watch.

At the shop, the woman ahead of me in the queue turned around, fanned herself with a magazine, and said, "Mighty warm today, isn't it?" — as if remarking on nothing more than a light breeze, despite looking two shades past melted.

Out on the building site nearby, one lad shouted over to his mate that it was lethal heat altogether, while another swore there was savage heat coming off the tarmac. By lunchtime, someone else was heard declaring he was dying with the heat and would need to sit in the shade for the rest of the shift.

My neighbour, meanwhile, spent the entire afternoon in her garden insisting there was belting down sun since ten that morning, despite having complained about rain just three days earlier.

And then, of course, there's the classic response — the shrug, the sigh, the admission that sure, we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat. We're not built for this heat, someone always says, usually while standing in direct sunlight without a hat, sunscreen, or a single bottle of water in sight. Honestly, would ya look at that heat. Jaysis, the state of it.

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

## Lesson 2 — Level B2

### 1. Odd One Out

In each set, three sentences make sense. One doesn't fit — the heat word is used illogically. Circle the letter of the sentence that is the odd one out.

*Context: Wedding*

- A. It was mighty warm at the wedding, so most guests kept to the shaded side of the marquee.
- B. There was savage heat on the dance floor, yet everyone kept their coats buttoned to the neck all evening.
- C. The best man said he was dying with the heat halfway through his speech.
- D. Guests admitted they didn't know what to do with themselves in the heat, so the reception moved outdoors.

*Context: GAA match*

- A. There was lethal heat out on the pitch, so extra water breaks were added to the match.
- B. One supporter said it was cooking in the stand, so he moved to sit under the roof.
- C. A player was banjaxed with the heat by half-time, so he asked to be substituted.
- D. The manager said it was mighty warm pitchside, so he told the players to wrap up in extra layers before kickoff.

*Context: Building site*

- A. There was belting down sun all morning, so the crew took their break earlier than planned.
- B. One worker said he was destroyed with the heat after carrying blocks all day.
- C. The foreman said it was savage heat on the site, so he handed out extra water.
- D. Another said, "Jaysis, the state of the heat," before pulling on a woolly hat and gloves.

*Context: Garden party*

- A. Would ya look at that heat, said one guest, fanning herself with a paper plate.
- B. We're not built for this heat, someone joked, before heading inside for a cold drink.
- C. It was mighty warm in the garden, so the host handed out extra blankets to keep everyone cosy.
- D. Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat, laughed one neighbour, wiping her brow.

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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## 2. Multiple Choice

*Context: A radio phone-in about the heatwave*

Choose the best word or phrase to complete each message.

1. There's not a cloud in the sky, and it's been \_\_\_\_ since early morning.  
A) belting down sun B) mighty warm C) banjaxed with the heat
2. By the second half, the goalkeeper was completely \_\_\_\_ and had to go off.  
A) savage heat B) banjaxed with the heat C) belting down sun
3. \_\_\_\_, she said, wiping sweat from her forehead and laughing at the same time.  
A) Mighty warm B) Lethal heat C) I'm dying with the heat
4. There's \_\_\_\_ heat in that attic, you'd want to be careful going up there.  
A) savage B) mighty warm C) belting down
5. \_\_\_\_ — I don't think I've felt anything like it in this country before.  
A) Would ya look at that heat B) I'm banjaxed with the heat C) It's cooking
6. \_\_\_\_, most people just don't have air conditioning here.  
A) We're not built for this heat B) Jaysis, the state of the heat C) Lethal heat

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

## Lesson 2 — Level B2

### 3. Matching

Match each word or phrase (1–12) to its meaning (A–L). Write the correct letter in the blank.

1. Mighty warm \_\_\_\_
2. Cooking \_\_\_\_
3. You'd be destroyed with the heat \_\_\_\_
4. Lethal heat \_\_\_\_
5. Savage heat \_\_\_\_
6. I'm dying with the heat \_\_\_\_
7. I'm banjaxed with the heat \_\_\_\_
8. Belting down sun \_\_\_\_
9. Would ya look at that heat \_\_\_\_
10. Jaysis, the state of the heat \_\_\_\_
11. Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat \_\_\_\_
12. We're not built for this heat \_\_\_\_

- 
- A. Extremely intense heat (another informal Irish intensifier)
  - B. A remark suggesting the country or its people aren't adapted to cope with such heat
  - C. An ironic, understated way of describing very hot weather
  - D. The sun is shining very strongly and continuously
  - E. You would feel overwhelmed or worn out by the heat
  - F. An exclamation commenting on how extreme or unpleasant the heat is
  - G. I feel extremely uncomfortable because of the heat (exaggerated, informal)
  - H. Very hot, especially in an enclosed or crowded space
  - I. An exclamation drawing attention to how hot it is
  - J. Extremely intense heat (an informal intensifier, not literally dangerous)
  - K. A self-deprecating remark about being unprepared for unusual heat
  - L. I'm completely exhausted because of the heat

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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## 4. Gap Fill

*Context: A postcard to a friend abroad*

Dear Sarah,

You won't believe the weather here at the moment! It's been \_\_\_\_\_ all week, with barely a cloud in sight. Yesterday Mam kept saying it was \_\_\_\_\_, fanning herself on the porch like it was nothing much at all. Dad, on the other hand, said he was \_\_\_\_\_ just from mowing the lawn, and had to lie down for an hour afterwards.

Even the dog looks \_\_\_\_\_! Honestly, \_\_\_\_\_ — I don't think I've ever seen the garden this bright. Everyone keeps saying \_\_\_\_\_, since none of us have air conditioning or proper blinds.

\_\_\_\_\_, we've started eating dinner in the shed just to escape the kitchen. Hope the weather's kinder where you are!

Love, Aoife

*Word bank: belting down sun • mighty warm • banjaxed with the heat • destroyed with the heat • would ya look at that heat • we're not built for this heat • Jaysis, the state of the heat • savage heat • cooking*

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

Lesson 2 — Level B2

## 5. Error Correction

*Context: A reader's letter to the local newspaper*

Each sentence below originally used the wrong heat word (shown in capitals). Write the correct word or phrase on the line.

1. The stadium seats were SAVAGE WARM after sitting in the sun all afternoon.

Correction: \_\_\_\_\_

2. "BANJAXED WARM," the postman muttered, wiping his forehead with his sleeve.

Correction: \_\_\_\_\_

3. After the long shift, the nurses said they were LETHAL WITH THE HEAT and needed to sit down for a while.

Correction: \_\_\_\_\_

4. There was DYING SUN all afternoon, without a single cloud in the sky.

Correction: \_\_\_\_\_

5. "THE STATE OF THAT WARM," the farmer said, shaking his head in disbelief.

Correction: \_\_\_\_\_



# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

## Lesson 2 — Level B2

### 6. Register Rewrite

*Context: A tour guide's script, translated into casual local commentary*

Each formal sentence needs to be rewritten in everyday spoken English. Circle the letter of the option that captures the same meaning — the others use a heat word that doesn't quite fit.

1. The playground equipment had absorbed so much heat from the sun that it was uncomfortable to touch.  
A) The playground equipment was dying with the heat in the sun.  
B) The playground equipment said it was mighty warm in the sun.  
C) The playground equipment was cooking in the sun.
2. Several construction workers said they felt utterly exhausted after working through the hottest part of the day.  
A) Several workers said there was savage heat outside.  
B) Several workers said they were banjaxed with the heat.  
C) Several workers said it was belting down sun outside.
3. One local resident made a sarcastic remark about the weather, despite clearly suffering in the heat.  
A) One resident said, "Jaysis, the state of the heat," despite clearly suffering in the heat.  
B) One resident said, "Mighty warm," despite clearly suffering in the heat.  
C) One resident said they were destroyed with the heat, despite clearly suffering in the heat.
4. Visitors were surprised by just how strong and constant the sunshine had been all day.  
A) Visitors said there was belting down sun all day.  
B) Visitors said it was mighty warm all day.  
C) Visitors said they were dying with the heat all day.
5. A shopkeeper commented that the country simply isn't equipped to deal with such high temperatures.  
A) The shopkeeper said, "Would ya look at that heat."  
B) The shopkeeper said we're not built for this heat.  
C) The shopkeeper said there was lethal heat outside.

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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6. A group of tourists admitted they had no idea how to cope with the unusually high temperatures.

A) The tourists said it was cooking outside.

B) The tourists said the heat was savage.

C) The tourists said, sure, they didn't know what to do with themselves in the heat.

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

Lesson 2 — Level B2

## 7. Complete the Conversation

*Context: A phone call between two neighbours*

Mairead: Tom, are you coping okay in this heat at all?

Tom: Ah, barely! Honestly, it's been \_\_\_\_\_ here since Tuesday, not a bit of relief.

Mairead: Same here. I was in the garden earlier and thought, \_\_\_\_\_, I've never seen the grass this scorched.

Tom: I believe you. The lads doing the roof next door said it was \_\_\_\_\_ up there, they had to stop working by midday.

Mairead: That's rough. I was in town and honestly felt \_\_\_\_\_ just walking from the car to the shop.

Tom: Sure, \_\_\_\_\_, this weather doesn't suit us at all here.

Mairead: True enough. My sister rang from Spain and couldn't believe we were complaining, but honestly, \_\_\_\_\_.

Tom: Exactly. \_\_\_\_\_, we'll cope somehow, we always do.

*Word bank: cooking • would ya look at that heat • lethal heat • destroyed with the heat • we're not built for this heat • sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat • Jaysis, the state of the heat • mighty warm • savage heat*

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

Lesson 2 — Level B2

## **TEACHER ANSWER KEY**

### **Do Not Distribute to Students**

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### Language Focus

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| Word / Phrase                    | Meaning                                                                     | Example                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mighty warm                      | An ironic, understated way of describing very hot weather.                  | <i>"Mighty warm today, isn't it?" she said, fanning herself with a folded newspaper.</i>             |
| Cooking                          | Very hot, especially in an enclosed or crowded space.                       | <i>The kitchen was cooking by the time the dinner rush started, even with the fan on full blast.</i> |
| You'd be destroyed with the heat | You would feel completely overwhelmed or worn out by the heat.              | <i>You'd be destroyed with the heat standing out there for the parade.</i>                           |
| Lethal heat                      | Extremely intense heat (an informal intensifier, not literally dangerous).  | <i>That's lethal heat altogether — we'll need extra water breaks on the site today.</i>              |
| Savage heat                      | Extremely intense heat (another informal Irish intensifier).                | <i>There's savage heat in that greenhouse, be careful not to overdo it.</i>                          |
| I'm dying with the heat          | I feel extremely uncomfortable because of the heat (exaggerated, informal). | <i>I'm dying with the heat in this office, honestly.</i>                                             |
| I'm banjaxed with the heat       | I'm completely exhausted because of the heat.                               | <i>I'm banjaxed with the heat after cutting the grass this morning.</i>                              |
| Belting down sun                 | The sun is shining very strongly and continuously.                          | <i>There was belting down sun all afternoon, not a cloud in sight.</i>                               |
| Would ya look at that heat       | An exclamation drawing attention to how hot it is.                          | <i>Would ya look at that heat — sure it's like a different country altogether.</i>                   |

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## Lesson 2 — Level B2

| Word / Phrase                                             | Meaning                                                                              | Example                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jaysis, the state of the heat                             | An exclamation commenting on how extreme or unpleasant the heat is.                  | <i>Jaysis, the state of the heat below in Cork today — it was unbearable.</i>                  |
| Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat | A self-deprecating remark about being unprepared for unusual heat.                   | <i>Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat, we're not used to it at all.</i> |
| We're not built for this heat                             | A remark suggesting the country or its people aren't adapted to cope with such heat. | <i>We're not built for this heat, that's for certain — the whole country grinds to a halt.</i> |

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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## Reading

*Context: Opinion column*

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Out on the building site nearby, one lad shouted over to his mate that it was lethal heat altogether, while another swore there was savage heat coming off the tarmac. By lunchtime, someone else was heard declaring he was dying with the heat and would need to sit in the shade for the rest of the shift.

My neighbour, meanwhile, spent the entire afternoon in her garden insisting there was belting down sun since ten that morning, despite having complained about rain just three days earlier.

And then, of course, there's the classic response — the shrug, the sigh, the admission that sure, we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat. We're not built for this heat, someone always says, usually while standing in direct sunlight without a hat, sunscreen, or a single bottle of water in sight. Honestly, would ya look at that heat. Jaysis, the state of it.

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

## Lesson 2 — Level B2

### 1. Odd One Out

In each set, three sentences make sense. One doesn't fit — the heat word is used illogically. Circle the letter of the sentence that is the odd one out.

*Context: Wedding*

A. It was mighty warm at the wedding, so most guests kept to the shaded side of the marquee.

**B. There was savage heat on the dance floor, yet everyone kept their coats buttoned to the neck all evening.**

C. The best man said he was dying with the heat halfway through his speech.

D. Guests admitted they didn't know what to do with themselves in the heat, so the reception moved outdoors.

*Context: GAA match*

A. There was lethal heat out on the pitch, so extra water breaks were added to the match.

B. One supporter said it was cooking in the stand, so he moved to sit under the roof.

C. A player was banjaxed with the heat by half-time, so he asked to be substituted.

**D. The manager said it was mighty warm pitchside, so he told the players to wrap up in extra layers before kickoff.**

*Context: Building site*

A. There was belting down sun all morning, so the crew took their break earlier than planned.

B. One worker said he was destroyed with the heat after carrying blocks all day.

C. The foreman said it was savage heat on the site, so he handed out extra water.

**D. Another said, "Jaysis, the state of the heat," before pulling on a woolly hat and gloves.**

*Context: Garden party*

A. Would ya look at that heat, said one guest, fanning herself with a paper plate.

B. We're not built for this heat, someone joked, before heading inside for a cold drink.

**C. It was mighty warm in the garden, so the host handed out extra blankets to keep everyone cosy.**

D. Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat, laughed one neighbour, wiping her brow.



# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

Lesson 2 — Level B2

## 2. Multiple Choice

*Context: A radio phone-in about the heatwave*

Choose the best word or phrase to complete each message.

1. There's not a cloud in the sky, and it's been \_\_\_\_ since early morning.

A) belting down sun ✓ B) mighty warm C) banjaxed with the heat

2. By the second half, the goalkeeper was completely \_\_\_\_ and had to go off.

A) savage heat B) banjaxed with the heat ✓ C) belting down sun

3. \_\_\_\_, she said, wiping sweat from her forehead and laughing at the same time.

A) Mighty warm ✓ B) Lethal heat C) I'm dying with the heat

4. There's \_\_\_\_ heat in that attic, you'd want to be careful going up there.

A) savage ✓ B) mighty warm C) belting down

5. \_\_\_\_ — I don't think I've felt anything like it in this country before.

A) Would ya look at that heat ✓ B) I'm banjaxed with the heat C) It's cooking

6. \_\_\_\_, most people just don't have air conditioning here.

A) We're not built for this heat ✓ B) Jaysis, the state of the heat C) Lethal heat

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

## Lesson 2 — Level B2

### 3. Matching

Match each word or phrase (1–12) to its meaning (A–L). Write the correct letter in the blank.

1. Mighty warm ( C )
2. Cooking ( H )
3. You'd be destroyed with the heat ( E )
4. Lethal heat ( J )
5. Savage heat ( A )
6. I'm dying with the heat ( G )
7. I'm banjaxed with the heat ( L )
8. Belting down sun ( D )
9. Would ya look at that heat ( I )
10. Jaysis, the state of the heat ( F )
11. Sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat ( K )
12. We're not built for this heat ( B )

- 
- A. Extremely intense heat (another informal Irish intensifier)
  - B. A remark suggesting the country or its people aren't adapted to cope with such heat
  - C. An ironic, understated way of describing very hot weather
  - D. The sun is shining very strongly and continuously
  - E. You would feel overwhelmed or worn out by the heat
  - F. An exclamation commenting on how extreme or unpleasant the heat is
  - G. I feel extremely uncomfortable because of the heat (exaggerated, informal)
  - H. Very hot, especially in an enclosed or crowded space
  - I. An exclamation drawing attention to how hot it is
  - J. Extremely intense heat (an informal intensifier, not literally dangerous)
  - K. A self-deprecating remark about being unprepared for unusual heat
  - L. I'm completely exhausted because of the heat

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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## 4. Gap Fill

*Context: A postcard to a friend abroad*

Dear Sarah,

You won't believe the weather here at the moment! It's been **belting down sun** all week, with barely a cloud in sight. Yesterday Mam kept saying it was **mighty warm**, fanning herself on the porch like it was nothing much at all. Dad, on the other hand, said he was **banjaxed with the heat** just from mowing the lawn, and had to lie down for an hour afterwards.

Even the dog looks **destroyed with the heat**! Honestly, **would ya look at that heat** — I don't think I've ever seen the garden this bright. Everyone keeps saying **we're not built for this heat**, since none of us have air conditioning or proper blinds.

**Jaysis, the state of the heat**, we've started eating dinner in the shed just to escape the kitchen. Hope the weather's kinder where you are!

Love, Aoife

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

Lesson 2 — Level B2

## 5. Error Correction

*Context: A reader's letter to the local newspaper*

Each sentence below originally used the wrong heat word (shown in capitals). Write the correct word or phrase on the line.

1. The stadium seats were SAVAGE WARM after sitting in the sun all afternoon.

**Correction: cooking**

2. "BANJAXED WARM," the postman muttered, wiping his forehead with his sleeve.

**Correction: Mighty warm**

3. After the long shift, the nurses said they were LETHAL WITH THE HEAT and needed to sit down for a while.

**Correction: banjaxed with the heat**

4. There was DYING SUN all afternoon, without a single cloud in the sky.

**Correction: belting down sun**

5. "THE STATE OF THAT WARM," the farmer said, shaking his head in disbelief.

**Correction: Would ya look at that heat**

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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### 6. Register Rewrite

*Context: A tour guide's script, translated into casual local commentary*

Each formal sentence needs to be rewritten in everyday spoken English. Circle the letter of the option that captures the same meaning — the others use a heat word that doesn't quite fit.

1. The playground equipment had absorbed so much heat from the sun that it was uncomfortable to touch.

A) The playground equipment was dying with the heat in the sun.

B) The playground equipment said it was mighty warm in the sun.

C) The playground equipment was cooking in the sun. ✓

2. Several construction workers said they felt utterly exhausted after working through the hottest part of the day.

A) Several workers said there was savage heat outside.

B) Several workers said they were banjaxed with the heat. ✓

C) Several workers said it was belting down sun outside.

3. One local resident made a sarcastic remark about the weather, despite clearly suffering in the heat.

A) One resident said, "Jaysis, the state of the heat," despite clearly suffering in the heat.

B) One resident said, "Mighty warm," despite clearly suffering in the heat. ✓

C) One resident said they were destroyed with the heat, despite clearly suffering in the heat.

4. Visitors were surprised by just how strong and constant the sunshine had been all day.

A) Visitors said there was belting down sun all day. ✓

B) Visitors said it was mighty warm all day.

C) Visitors said they were dying with the heat all day.

5. A shopkeeper commented that the country simply isn't equipped to deal with such high temperatures.

A) The shopkeeper said, "Would ya look at that heat."

B) The shopkeeper said we're not built for this heat. ✓

C) The shopkeeper said there was lethal heat outside.

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6. A group of tourists admitted they had no idea how to cope with the unusually high temperatures.

A) The tourists said it was cooking outside.

B) The tourists said the heat was savage.

C) The tourists said, sure, they didn't know what to do with themselves in the heat. ✓

# Irish English: Talking About Heatwaves

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## 7. Complete the Conversation

*Context: A phone call between two neighbours*

Mairead: Tom, are you coping okay in this heat at all?

Tom: Ah, barely! Honestly, it's been **cooking** here since Tuesday, not a bit of relief.

Mairead: Same here. I was in the garden earlier and thought, **would ya look at that heat**, I've never seen the grass this scorched.

Tom: I believe you. The lads doing the roof next door said it was **lethal heat** up there, they had to stop working by midday.

Mairead: That's rough. I was in town and honestly felt **destroyed with the heat** just walking from the car to the shop.

Tom: Sure, **we're not built for this heat**, this weather doesn't suit us at all here.

Mairead: True enough. My sister rang from Spain and couldn't believe we were complaining, but honestly, **sure we don't know what to do with ourselves in this heat**.

Tom: Exactly. **Jaysis, the state of the heat**, we'll cope somehow, we always do.