

Everyone Talks about It

by Jean MacGregor



- 1 "Whether it's cold or whether it's hot, we're going to have weather, whether or not." That's an old saying. And it's true. Weather is always all around us.
- 2 "Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it!" That's an old joke. But it's NOT true. You spend a

lot of time doing something about the weather. So does everyone else.

- 3 What do you do? You get dressed every day. In winter you wear warm clothes. When you go out, you put on a coat and mittens. If there's snow, you put on boots.
- 4 In summer you put on light clothes. You take an umbrella if it looks like rain. And if it rains, you open it. When the rain stops, you close it.
- 5 If it's cold at night, you put more blankets on your bed. If it's hot, you take them off.
- 6 Every time you do any of those things, you've done something about the weather.
- 7 Lots of people earn a living doing something about the weather. The people who make clothes and umbrellas do. So do the ones who make air conditioners and furnaces. So do the people who sell these things, or fix them, or deliver them. So do all the people who help to build buildings. And so do the people who make the tools and materials buildings are built with.
- 8 People spend lots of money doing something about the weather. They buy clothes. They pay rent or buy houses. They buy coal or oil or gas to warm the houses. They buy air conditioners to cool them.
- 9 Of course none of these things *change* the weather. But they change what weather *does* to people. Weather is one of the main things that make us live the way we do.
- 10 So if someone tells you that everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it, just laugh. You know better.

How Well Did You Understand?

- A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.
- This story is about
 - things people do to change the weather
 - things people do because of the weather's changes
 - If you lived where it was very hot, you could do something about the weather by
 - going swimming
 - buying coal or oil
 - If the weather were always the same,
 - people might build more houses
 - people might not spend as much money
 - People change what weather does to them when they use
 - fans, sunglasses, and boots
 - television, radios, and books
 - "Everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it" really means
 - people care about the weather but can't change or fix it
 - people do a lot of things differently because weather is important

Learn about Words

- B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Directions: Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning below. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- warm covers for a bed (5)
 - heaters for buildings (7)
 - take to someone (7)
 - money for a place to live (8)
 - most important; biggest (9)
- C** Read each sentence. Which word that you found in *B* makes sense in the blank? Write the word.
- The store will ____ the new air conditioner we bought.
 - People turn on their ____ when the weather gets cold.
 - On a cold night, I pull the ____ up to my chin.
 - One of the ____ ways to keep warm is to wear more clothes.
 - We pay ____ every month for our apartment.

Think about It

D Read each set of words. Choose the word from the box that best fits in each blank. Write the word.

snow hot day
coat houses

- 1 week month ___ hour
- 2 ___ shirt hat shoe
- 3 warm ___ cold cool
- 4 schools stores ___ hospitals
- 5 rain wind ___ fog

E Most verbs add *ed* to show that something happened in the past.

Last week he *liked* his red hat best.

This week he *likes* his blue hat.

Directions: Read each sentence. If it could be happening now, write *now*. If it happened in the past, write *past*.

- 6 The weather changed very fast.
- 7 Juan opens the window.
- 8 We talked about the storm.
- 9 Katie dresses warmly.
- 10 Jim fixed the air conditioner.

Find Out More

Eskimos live where it's very cold for most of the year. Sometimes their houses are even made of ice. Yet the Eskimos have ways to stay warm, even without furnaces. Go to the library and find out some of the ways Eskimos stay warm.