What is the difference between weather and climate?
Weather is the specific temperature / humidity / condition of the atmosphere at a particular time and place. Climate is the typical weather conditions for a geographical area over long periods of time / long-term weather patterns in a particular area.

What is the weather like today?
It’s cold and rainy / damp and windy / pouring rain. There is some light drizzle / heavy rain / hail and freezing rain. It’s warm / hot / dry / sunny / humid. The sun is shining. There is not a cloud in the sky. There is a thunderstorm with thunder and lightning. Today it’s foggy / misty / cloudy / snowing and icy outside. The weather is changing.

How does the weather change throughout the year?
In the autumn, the weather starts to get cooler / the sun is lower in the sky / the sun is weaker / it might be misty, rainy or cold. In the winter, temperatures can drop and it’s usually below freezing / it can be rainy / there might be snow. In the spring, it starts getting warmer / the weather can change suddenly. It might be rainy / windy / cloudy. Summer can be hot and humid. The sun sets much later in the day. There are a lot of thunderstorms.

How would you describe the climate of the Czech Republic?
The Czech Republic has a typical continental European / moderate climate / has warm dry summers and fairly cold winters. January is the coldest month with temperatures far below zero, and there is the possibility of heavy snowfall. In summer temperatures average 20–25 degrees but it can sometimes be 30 degrees or more.

Can you describe different types of climate?
The distance from the sun and the amount of moisture in the air affects the climate. The area close to the equator gets the most sun and is called the tropical zone. The North Pole / Arctic and the South Pole / Antarctica have the least amount of sun / are always cold / are called the polar zones. Desert zones like the Sahara are very hot in the day and very cold at night. In the mountains, the weather can change quickly; for example, one side of the mountain may be cold and windy while the other may be sheltered and dry.

What is extreme weather and what problems can it cause?
Extreme weather is when there is a weather event that is different from normal. Examples of extreme weather include floods, when there is too much water / a blizzard, which means a very large amount of snow / a heatwave when there is a long period of high temperatures / a drought when there is no rain for a long time. This can cause problems such as dead crops / dry soil / health problems / bush fires. Other types of natural disasters include tornados / hurricanes / tropical storms / typhoons which happen near the sea and coastal areas.

Do you think humans have affected the weather patterns and caused extreme weather?
Global warming / climate change is on the rise / a change in the earth’s average temperature caused by the increase in greenhouse gases. This has caused the ice caps to melt / sea levels to rise / flooding / heatwaves / droughts. I believe that humans have affected global warming because we have destroyed rain forests / released poisonous gases into the atmosphere. I don’t believe that humans alone have caused these changes. The earth is naturally getting warmer. I think that it is natural but humans need to be careful not to increase the problem.

What is your favourite / least favourite type of weather?
I like watching the dramatic thunderstorms which clear the air and make it fresh. I love autumn / the low sun / the colourful leaves on the trees / the misty mornings. Winter is my favourite season. I love the crisp, cold, clear days. I don’t like winter because the days are short / it is cold and grey. I don’t like it when it’s hot and sunny; I prefer cooler weather. I don’t like autumn because summer is over and it’s nearly winter. I like spring best because winter is over / the days can be windy / fresh and sunny.

Do you pay attention to the weather / check the forecast?
I always check the weather forecast on my phone / on TV / in the newspaper before I go out. I like to be prepared / to wear the right clothes. I only check the weather before I go on holiday so I know what to pack in my suitcase. I never check the weather because it changes so often anyway.

What is the weather like where you come from? (USA)
I used to live in Los Angeles, California, and it was sunny almost every day of the year. We didn’t really have any seasons or changes in our weather patterns – although it got cooler in the winter, the sun still shone. We only had about three weeks of heavy rain in January or February.