

# EXTREME<sup>1</sup> WEATHER

## THE HOTTEST DAY, HEAVIEST RAIN AND OTHER WEATHER RECORDS<sup>2</sup>

Tornadoes<sup>3</sup>, gales<sup>4</sup>, freezing rain<sup>5</sup>, hail<sup>6</sup> and drought<sup>7</sup>: these are all types of weather. Do you know what they are? Let's have a look.

### Gales

When **air**<sup>8</sup> moves, we call it wind. Sometimes the air moves a little. It is a light wind. Sometimes it moves fast. Then, it is a strong wind or a gale. The strongest winds are in tornadoes. The record for the strongest wind not in a tornado is 408 km/h\*.

### Tornadoes

A tornado is a strong wind that **spins**<sup>9</sup>. Most tornadoes are in the United States. The United States has 1,200 tornadoes a year. Tornado winds are very fast. The record for the fastest tornado wind is 512 km/h.

The planet Neptune has the strongest winds of all. Winds on Neptune can be 2,100 km/h. (Neptune is not a good place for a holiday.)

### Rain and Drought

A little bit of rain is a light rain. A lot of rain is heavy rain or a **downpour**<sup>10</sup>. The record for the heaviest rain is 1.8 metres in 24 hours. A lot of water on the **ground**<sup>11</sup> is a **flood**<sup>12</sup>. The Czech Republic had a very bad flood in 2002. The American city of Houston had a bad flood in September 2017. When there is no rain for a lot of weeks, it is a drought. A place in Antarctica has the record for the longest drought: no rain for 2,000 years.

#### •LANGUAGE POINT

##### Weather Opposites

The opposite of a *heavy bag* is a *light bag*. The opposite of a *strong man* is a *weak man*. But weather opposites are special.

\_\_\_\_\_ wind      x      \_\_\_\_\_ wind  
\_\_\_\_\_ rain      x      \_\_\_\_\_ rain

#### TASK 4



Listen to three more types of weather. Tick (= zaškrtnout) the right boxes.

☐

hurricanes

☐

hail

☐

freezing rain

☐

blizzards

☐

heatwaves



HAIL



A BLIZZARD



A HURRICANE



FREEZING RAIN



A HEATWAVE

#### \*GLOSSARY

km/h – kilometres per hour

#### VOCABULARY

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <b>extreme</b> [ik'stri:m] extrémní, mimořádný, neobvyklý | 10 <b>downpour</b> ['daʊnpɔ:(r)] liják        |
| 2 <b>record</b> ['rekɔ:d] rekord                            | 11 <b>ground</b> [graʊnd] zem, země           |
| 3 <b>tornado</b> [tɔ:'neɪdɔʊ] tornádo                       | 12 <b>flood</b> [flʌd] záplava, povodeň       |
| 4 <b>gale</b> [geɪl] vichřice                               | 13 <b>to fall</b> [fɔ:l] padat, spadnout      |
| 5 <b>freezing rain</b> ['fri:zɪŋ] mrznoucí déšť             | 14 <b>to freeze</b> [fri:z] mrznout, zmrznout |
| 6 <b>hail</b> [heɪl] kroupy, krupobití                      | 15 <b>hailstone</b> ['heɪlstəʊn] kroupa       |
| 7 <b>drought</b> [draʊt] sucho, období sucha                | 16 <b>ice</b> [aɪs] led                       |
| 8 <b>air</b> [eə] vzduch                                    | 17 <b>dangerous</b> ['deɪndʒərəs] nebezpečný  |
| 9 <b>to spin</b> [spɪn] (roz)točit se                       | 18 <b>heatwave</b> ['hi:twelv] vlna veder     |