



Segment 5 (Units 9–12)

Weather or not

Genre: Newscast

Viewing Time: 4:41

Background Information

Most TV stations in the United States have two main presenters (called anchors) in their newscasts. On most stations, a man and a woman alternate presenting the main events of the day and introducing the reporters in the field. There are usually two more presenters at the studio—one for the weather and one for the sports. Anchors try to close nondramatic news with a little joke and they often joke with the weather and sports presenters as their sections begin.

Cultural Information

Remind students that temperatures in the United States are measured in Fahrenheit degrees, and that 60° F equal approximately 13° C. To change from Fahrenheit to Celsius, you need to subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit temperature, multiply that amount by 5, and then divide the result by 9.

Language Notes

Whether or not is a common expression meaning that something will or will not happen in spite of what the situation is; for example, "Whether you like it or not, you have to come with me." The title plays with the fact that *weather* and *whether* are pronounced the same.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Preview the vocabulary with your students.

nasty weather: *unpleasant, rainy weather*
porcupine: *a small animal with thick needle-shaped parts on its back*

prickly: *making you have a stinging feeling on your skin (like when you are pinched by something very sharp)*
shocked: *very surprised*



Answer Key

Previewing (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. They are news anchors at a TV station.
2. They are reading the news.
3. He is in charge of the weather.
4. They are embarrassed and confused.

In-Depth Viewing

1. meteorologist
2. colder
3. rain
4. soup can
5. a commercial

Video Script

Sue: . . . and thanks for that fascinating story, Meryl. That's one dog who won't go porcupine-hunting again anytime soon. Ed?

Ed: Ouch. Prickly situation, if ever there was one.

Sue: Not as prickly as that joke, Ed.

Ed: Right. And now for the weather. It's our great pleasure to welcome a new meteorologist to the WDUL team. Please say hello to Mr. Timmy Green.

Timmy: Aww, thanks, Ed! It is *so great* to be here! I—I just can't believe this!

Sue: Welcome aboard, Timmy.

Timmy: I *never* thought I would get a job like this! Well, actually . . . I never thought I'd get a job at all, but . . .

Ed: Well, yes . . . OK! Let's go to the weather. I understand there's quite a storm moving in. Why don't you tell us about it . . . Timmy.

Timmy: Right. The storm. Let's look at the map. OK. Um, whoa! What's . . . is there, um . . . oh, oh, right! We're supposed to look at the current readings first. That comes first, right?

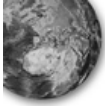
Ed: That *is* the way it's usually done, yes.

Timmy: Right! So it's . . . what does that say? That's, um, 60 degrees. Wow, is it really? Gee! Feels a little colder to me. Does it feel a little colder than that to you, Sue?

Sue: Umm . . . yes?

Timmy: That's because of the increasing winds, Sue! The barometric pressure is falling and we all know what that means . . . don't we? *Don't we?*

Ed: What does it mean, Timmy?



Timmy: Rain, Ed! Rain! Lots and lots of rain! And it is going to be windy, too. Hooboy! Unless you're used to commuting by boat, you do not want to be outside tomorrow! It is going to be nasty. Yep! Just nasty. It's going to be really nasty.

Sue: And why is that, Timmy?

Timmy: Well, it's pretty complicated, Sue. I mean, a lot of technical stuff . . .

Sue: Well, why don't you explain it to us?

Timmy: Well, ah, yeah. I'm not sure that I can . . .

Ed: On the map, Timmy! Explain it on the map!

Timmy: Oh, right. Right. The map. Excellent idea, Ed. OK, OK, you guys, you see all these—uh, these big dark areas here? Those are clouds. Not good. Oh, and you see this . . . uh, ooh, it's over here. This big L? You know what that stands for—could you guess? Sue? The L?

Sue: Um....

Timmy: No. OK. That stands for *low pressure*. Right? And we all know what happens when low pressure combines with warm air, don't we?

Ed: What happens, Timmy?

Timmy: *BAM!* Rain! That warmer air hits that low pressure, and it explodes—*BAM!*—like a firecracker in a soup can. And you end up with, just . . . messy soup! It is going to be miserable tomorrow.

Sue: What about after tomorrow?

Timmy: After tomorrow?

Ed: The five-day forecast?

Timmy: Whoa! Ed, let's just do one day at a time here. I'll be lucky if I get tomorrow right.

Ed: I'd be shocked. I think we'd all be.

Sue: Thanks, Timmy. Next up is sports . . .

Timmy: Wait! Wait! I'm not done yet!

Ed: Oh, yes you are.

Timmy: Well, that wasn't so hard. I mean I . . .

Sue: Are we in commercial? Somebody *please*, cut to commercial!

Timmy: This is great! Sweet!