# AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE



# OUTLINE AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

## Structures

Review of Verbs:

present tense

present

present progressive

past tense

simple past with used to

Sequence of Tenses in Sentences  $\,$ 

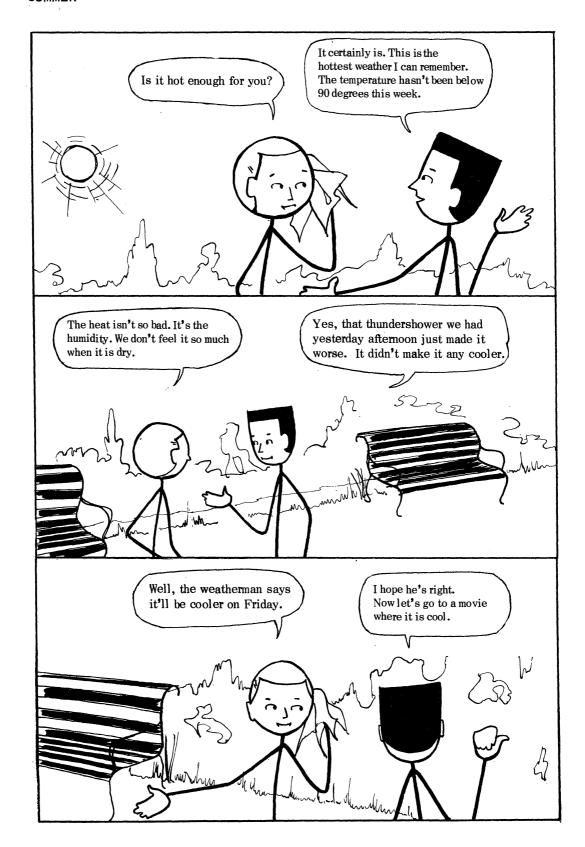
with two clauses

Future Perfect Tense

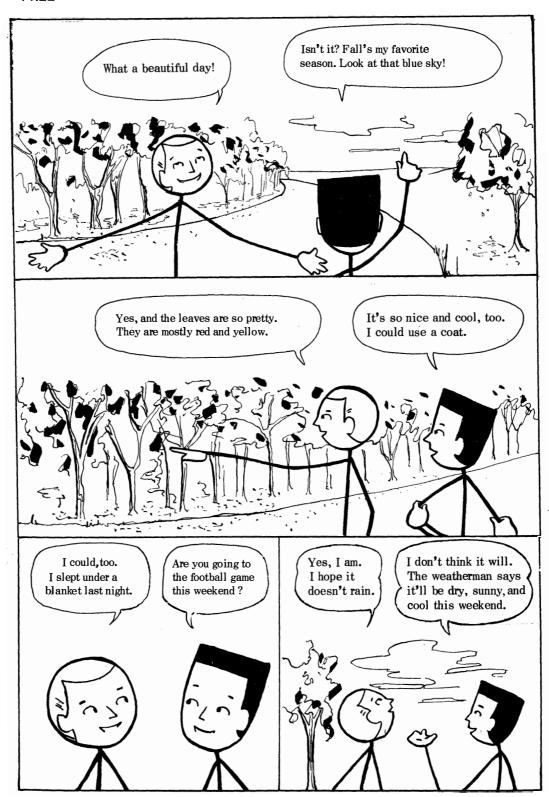
Clauses Describing Nouns and Pronouns

## THE FOUR SEASONS

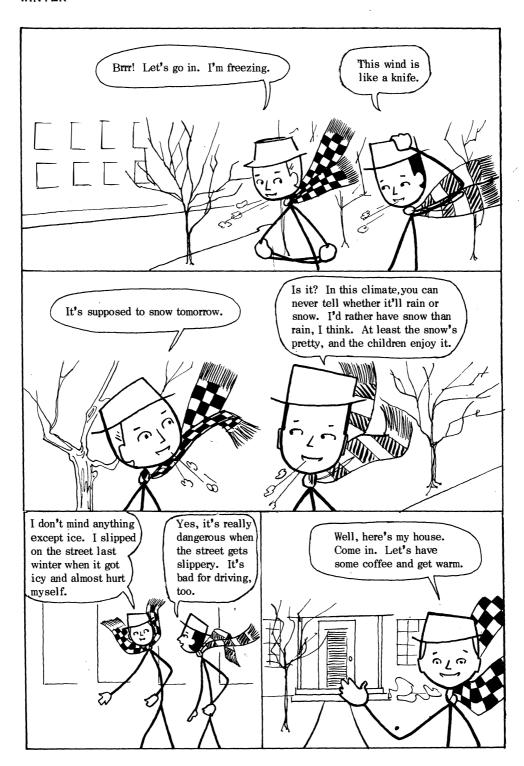
## SUMMER



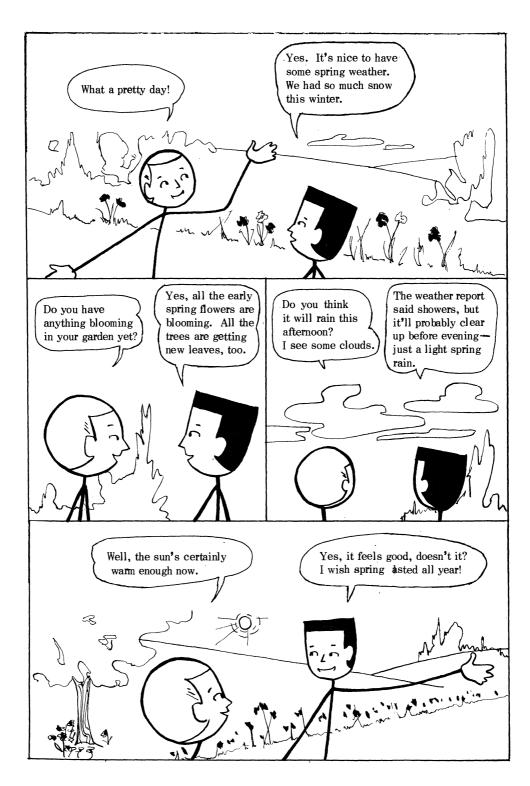
## FALL



## WINTER



## SPRING



#### AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE

#### UNIT 1403

#### CONVERSATION AND READING PRACTICES

## ${\tt Conversation}$

#### Four Seasons

## Summer

- A: Is it hot enough for you?
- B: It certainly is. This is the hottest weather I can remember. The temperature hasn't been below 90 degrees this week.
- A: The heat isn't so bad. It's the humidity. We don't feel it so much when it is dry.
- B: Yes, that thundershower we had yesterday afternoon just made it worse. It didn't make it any cooler.
- A: Well, the weatherman says it'll be cooler on Friday.
- B: I hope he's right. Now let's go to a movie where it is cool.

#### Fall

- A: What a beautiful day!
- B: Isn't it? Fall's my favorite season. Look at that blue sky!
- A: Yes, and the leaves are so pretty. They are mostly red and yellow.
- B: It's so nice and cool, too. I could use a coat.
- A: I could, too. I slept under a blanket last night.
- B: Are you going to the football game this weekend?
- A: Yes, I am. I hope it doesn't rain.
- B: I don't think it will. The weatherman says it'll be dry, sunny, and cool this weekend.

## Winter

- A: Brr! Let's go in. I'm freezing.
- B: This wind is like a knife.
- A: It's supposed to snow tomorrow.
- B: Is it? In this climate you can never tell whether it'll rain or snow. I'd rather have snow than rain, I think. At least the snow's pretty, and the children enjoy it.
- A: I don't mind anything except ice. I slipped on the street last winter when it got icy and almost hurt myself.
- B: Yes, it's really dangerous when the street gets slippery. It's bad for driving, too.
- A: Well, here's my house. Come in. Let's have some coffee and get warm.

## Spring

- A: What a pretty day!
- B: Yes. It's nice to have some spring weather. We had so much snow this winter.
- A: Do you have anything blooming in your garden yet?
- B: Yes. All the early spring flowers are blooming. All the trees are getting new leaves, too.
- A: Do you think it will rain this afternoon? I see some clouds.
- B: The weather report said showers, but it'll probably clear up before evening just a light spring rain.
- A: Well, the sun's certainly warm enough now.
- B: Yes. It feels good, doesn't it? I wish spring lasted all year!

## Word List

blanket sky sleep bloom clear up slip (v) cool slippery (adj) degree snow fall spring game summer sunny garden temperature heat humidity thunderstorm leaf (leaves) weatherman nice whether (if) season (time of year) winter

## Vocabulary Practice

1. blanket (cover)

A blanket is usually warm.

We sleep under a blanket in cold weather.

We see a blanket of flowers on the land in the spring.

2. bloom

Many flowers bloom in the spring.
Are your flowers blooming yet?
Those flowers bloomed well last year.

3. clear up

It has cleared up; the clouds are all gone.

My problems have cleared up; they are gone.

I hope it will clear up tomorrow.

4. cool

In the fall the days are cool.

This is a cool day.

When it is cool, it is not warm.

## 5. degree

The sun is hot; the temperature is 100 degrees.

The number of degrees of temperature tells us how hot or cold it is.

Is the temperature over 90 degrees today?

## 6. fall (season)

September, October, and November are fall months in the north. The weather begins to get cool in the fall.

The trees look beautiful in the fall.

## 7. game (football game)

Most people like to play games. Tell us how you play a football game. We play games outside in good weather.

## 8. garden

We have many flowers in our garden.

Do you have a garden around your house?

They have a lot of vegetables in the garden, too.

#### 9. heat

We have too much heat in the summer. Turn the heat on, please. We get our heat from the sun.

## 10. humidity

Humidity is the water in the air.

If the humidity is low, there is little water in the air.

High humidity in the summer is unpleasant.

## 11. leaf (leaves)

The trees get new leaves in the spring.
The leaves turn red and yellow in the fall.
Some trees have leaves all year.

## 12. nice (pleasant)

The weather is nice today. It was nice of you to come. We have a lot of nice days in the spring.

## 13. <u>season</u> (time of year)

The year has four seasons.

Winter is the cold season.

Summer is the season for vacations.

## 14. sky

The sun is in the sky.

The sky is generally blue.

The sky is gray when there are many clouds.

## 15. sleep

We usually sleep at night.

Do you go to sleep early or late?

I like to sleep late in the morning.

## 16. slip (v)

He slipped on the icy street. His car slipped on the wet street. Did you slip on the ice last night?

## 17. slippery (adj)

Ice is usually slippery. Rain makes the roads slippery. We should drive carefully on slippery roads.

#### 18. snow

Snow falls in winter. Snow is white and cold. Do you think it will snow?

## 19. spring

March, April, and May are the spring months in the north. Spring is a beautiful season. The weather is not always good in the spring.

#### 20. summer

The weather is hot in the summer. We usually take our vacations in the summer. They like to go swimming in the summer.

The weather is sunny when there are no clouds. Will the weather be sunny tomorrow? We all like sunny weather.

22. temperature
The temperature shows how hot or cold it is. What is the temperature today? Today is very warm; it is 95 degrees.

## 23. thunderstorm

It rained a lot during the thunderstorm. We often have a lot of wind with thunderstorms. Thunderstorms usually don't last long.

## 24. weatherman

The weatherman studies the weather. The weatherman gives us the weather report. The weatherman expects good weather tomorrow.

## 25. whether (if)

I don't know whether it will rain or snow. He didn't say whether or not he would come. Will you tell me whether or not you will do it?

## 26. winter

Winter is the cold season.

December, January, and February are the winter months in the north. Do you enjoy winter sports?

## Reading

## The Weather

Most parts of the world have four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. In northern countries, the spring months are March, April, and May. The summer months are June, July, and August. The fall months are September, October, and November. The winter months are December, January, and February.

Some of the most beautiful weather in the United States comes in the spring. The weather is warm, but not hot. There is some rain, but also a lot of warm sunshine. The plants begin to grow again, and the flowers bloom.

In most parts of the United States, the summer is hot. There is always some rain, but there are often long periods of hot sunny days. Many people like to take their vacations then. They go to the mountains where the weather is cooler, or to the ocean or a lake where they can swim. In most parts of the country, people stay outside a lot in the summer.

In the fall, the days begin to get cooler. There is usually a lot of rain, but there are also clear, sunny days when the sky is a bright blue. The leaves turn beautiful colors; yellow, red, and brown. Vacations are finished. Children go back to school. Because of the beautiful, cool days, many people think this is the best time of year.

In winter the weather is often bad. It is usually cold, and sometimes a cold wind blows. In the southern part of the country, there is a lot of rain. In the north, there is ice and snow as well as rain. People who like winter sports enjoy skiing and ice skating in winter. But almost everybody is glad when winter is finished and spring comes again.

## Word List

blow (v)	plant
bright	skate (v)
clear (adj)	ski (v)
lake	sports
ocean	sunshine
period (length of time)	wind (n)

## Vocabulary Practice

## 1. blow (v)

A cold wind often blows in winter.
A strong wind was blowing this morning.
It was blowing hard when we left home.

## 2. bright (-ly)

The sun is shining brightly today.
She likes to wear bright colors.
We enjoy bright, sunny days in the spring.

## 3. clear (adj)

The sky is clear; there are no clouds.

The water we drink is clear.

Do you understand it; is it clear to you?

## 4. lake

A lake is a body of water.

A lake is smaller than an ocean.

I like to go to a lake to fish.

#### ocean

An ocean is a large body of water.

The land in the world has oceans around it.

The largest ocean is between America and Asia.

## 6. period (a length of time)

A year is a long period of time.

The time England controlled America was called the colonial period.

We stay in school only a short period each day.

## 7. plant (n)

Plants begin to grow again in the spring.

These plants need a lot of water.

What kind of plant is this?

#### 8. skate

We like to skate on ice in the winter.

Do you enjoy ice skating?

I used to skate a lot every winter.

#### 9. ski (v)

Do you go skiing in the winter?

I want to learn to ski.

He skis very well.

## 10. sports

Most people enjoy watching sports.

We enjoy outdoor sports in the summer.

What sports do you take part in?

## ll. sunshine

We enjoy the sunshine in the spring.

The sunshine feels good to me.

We have a lot of sunshine when the sky is clear.

## 12. wind (n)

The wind blew all night.

The wind blows a lot in March.

There's a cold wind blowing.

## Questions on the Reading

- 1. What are the four seasons of the year?
- 2. What are March, April, and May called?
- 3. What season is June, July, and August?
- 4. What are the winter months?
- 5. Which is the most beautiful season in the U.S.?
- 6. What happens to the plants and flowers then?
- 7. What is the weather in the summer like?
- 8. What are the days like in the summer?
- 9. What do people like to do in the summer?
- 10. Where do they like to go?
- 11. What happens in the fall?
- 12. Do days get longer or shorter in the fall?
- 13. What colors do the leaves turn?
- 14. Where do the children go in the fall?
- 15. Who thinks fall is the best time of year?
- 16. What is winter weather like?
- 17. What happens in the south?
- 18. What happens in the north?
- 19. What sports do we enjoy in winter?
- 20. Who is glad when winter is over?

#### EXPLANATION AND DRILL OF STRUCTURES

## l. Review of Verbs

## a. Present Tense

Notice the two ways we use to express present time.

Read these sentences. Then change them to questions. Finally answer the question with a negative answer.

Example: He reads the paper every evening.

Does he read the paper every evening?

No, he doesn't read the paper every evening.

He is reading the paper now. Is he reading the paper now? No, he isn't reading the paper now.

- 1. John writes a letter home every week. He's writing a letter home right now.
- 2. Mary always reads lots of books. She's reading a travel book now.
- We often speak English out of class.
   We're speaking English in class now.
- 4. Albert cuts the grass once a week. He's cutting the grass now.
- 5. They always eat breakfast before they go to work.
  They're eating breakfast in the dining room.
- 6. I get my money every two weeks.

  I'm getting my money at the bank now.
- 7. Alice frequently drives the car in the mornings. She's driving the car to town now.

## b. Past Tense

Notice how we use <u>used to</u> to express repeated action and the simple past to express one action. For this exercise follow the instructions in a on page 55.

- Albert ate breakfast before going to work today.
  He used to eat breakfast only now and then.
- 2. Mary cooked ham and eggs for breakfast this morning. She used to cook wonderful meals every day.
- 3. Father rode to work with a friend today. He used to ride with me.
- 4. The student spoke English very well today. He used to speak English very badly.
- The boys wrote their homework yesterday.
   They seldom used to write it.
- They went swimming yesterday.
   They used to go swimming every week.
- We bought a new car last week.
   We used to buy a new car every five years.
- 8. He went to the movies after finishing the work. He used to go before doing his work.

## 2. Sequence of Tenses in Sentences with Two Clauses

- a. The tense of the first verb usually governs the tense of the second verb.
  - 1. I always read while I wait for a bus. (present) (present)
  - 2. We waited until she came. (past)
  - 3. He has learned a lot since he has been here.

    (present perfect) (present perfect)
  - 4. They had just come when you called. (past perfect) (past)
  - 5. We'll wait here until he comes. (Not until he will come) (future)

Notice that when the main part of the sentence is in the past perfect the second part is in the past. Also, remember that when the main part of the sentence is in the future tense, the second part is in the present tense.

## 3. The Future Perfect Tense

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: We form the future perfect tense with the verbs <u>will have</u> and the past participle of the main verb. This tense describes a <u>future</u> action which is completed before some specific time in the future. We do not often use this tense in conversational English.

Example: They will have been here a month by July.

a. Add the future perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

1.	The grass	(die) by August.
2.	They	(go) before he arrives.
3.	You	(learn) a new vocabulary by this time
	next year.	<del></del>
4.	He	(see) every show in town before he leaves
5.	She	(visit) several countries by September.
6.	I	(forget) all the rules by tomorrow.
7.	He	(write) a letter by the time we arrive.
8.	She	(arrive) downtown before it rains.
9.	I	(wait) an hour before she comes.
10.	They	(eat) lunch before I finish my work.

## 4. Clauses Describing Nouns and Pronouns

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: We frequently follow a noun or pronoun with a clause which tells us about it. We introduce these clauses with that, which, who, whom, whose, when, or where.

Examples:

We're talking about many things.

We'll need these things later.

We're talking about many things (that) we'll need later.

We bought some dishes.

The dishes were made in Japan.

The dishes (which) we bought were made in Japan.

- a. Study these sentences. Notice that we may or may not use the introductory word. We don't generally use it in informal speech.
  - 1. We were talking about the good picture (that) Mary went to see.
  - 2. Mary went to see the good picture (which) we were talking about.
  - 3. Where is the book (that) I was reading?
  - 4. This is the house (that) I bought last week.
  - 5. The man gave me a copy of the book (that) he wrote.
  - 6. The car (which) Jack bought is red.
  - 7. The girl (whom) you saw yesterday dances well.
  - 8. I remember the time (that) I met you.
  - 9. Mr. Jones knows the man (whom) I saw.
  - 10. Summer is the time (when) the weather gets hot.
  - 11. The movie (that) I saw was good.
  - 12. I forgot to mail the letter (that) I wrote home last night.

- b. Study these sentences. Here the introductory word is the subject of its clause. We cannot omit it.
  - 1. Do you remember the girl who came late to the party?
  - 2. Yes, she's the one that has no car.
  - 3. This is the student who made a good grade.
  - 4. Yes, he's the one that speaks well, too.
  - 5. The person that will meet us downtown just came back from Asia.
  - 6. Who was the student who came first?
  - 7. I'm the one that came first.
  - 8. We know the girl who lives here.
  - 9. Where is the bus that goes downtown?
  - 10. We're looking for a cafe that serves good food.
  - 11. The girl standing over there speaks several languages.
  - 12. Will the person who took my book please return it?
  - 13. Where are the new students who just came in?
  - 14. John sold the car that I wanted.
  - 15. He who speaks last speaks the least.
- c. Study these sentences. Here the introductory word is the subject of its clause and the verb be follows. We may omit both the introductory word and the verb be.
  - 1. Please speak to the person (that is) drinking coffee.
  - 2. I liked the car (which was) painted red best.
  - 3. John bought the suit (that was) made of wool.
  - 4. The lady (who is) speaking Spanish is our new teacher.
  - 5. The dishes (which were) made in Japan are the cheapest.
  - 6. I want to buy that old book (that was) printed in England.
  - 7. The house (that is) located on Nolan Street has already been sold.
  - 8. I live in a house (which is) on Nolan Street.
  - 9. John is going to a movie (that is) on Maple Street.

#### **TAPE 1403A**

Listen to this conversation about the summer.

A: Is it hot enough for you?

B: It certainly is.

This is the hottest weather I can remember.

The temperature hasn't been below 90 degrees this week.

A: The heat isn't so bad.

It's the humidity.

We don't feel the heat so much when it's dry.

B: Yes. We had a thundershower yesterday afternoon.

But that just made it worse.

It didn't make it any cooler.

A: The weatherman says it will be cooler on Friday.

B: I hope he's right.

Now, let's go to a movie where it's cool.

Now listen to this conversation again and repeat it.

Here are some questions about the conversation. Answer the questions when you hear them. Then repeat the correct response.

Example:

What season is it?

It is summer.

It is summer.

How is the weather?

The weather is hot.

How high is the temperature?

The temperature is above 90 degrees.

What makes the heat so bad?

The humidity makes the heat so bad.

What did we have yesterday afternoon?

We had a thundershower.

How will the weather be on Friday?

The weather will be cooler on Friday.

Who said that the weather would be cooler?

The weatherman said the weather would be cooler.

Where are the two friends going to get cool?

They are going to a movie to get cool.

We'll now practice some sentences using the new words in this conversation. Listen to them and repeat them.

## cool

The days are cool in the fall. Yesterday was a cool day. It is usually cool after a rain.

## degree

The temperature is 90 degrees.

Is the temperature over 90 degrees?

A person usually has a temperature of 98.6 degrees.

## heat

We have too much heat in the summer. Turn the heat on, please. We get our heat from the sun.

## humidity

Humidity is the water in the air.

High humidity in the summer is unpleasant.

Humidity is high where it rains a lot.

## summer

The weather is hot in the summer.
We usually take vacations in the summer.
I like to go to the mountains in the summer.

## temperature

The temperature tells us how hot or cold it is. What is the temperature today? Today the temperature is 95 degrees.

## thundershower

It rained a lot during the thundershower. Thundershowers often have a lot of lightning. Thundershowers usually don't last very long.

## weatherman

The weatherman studies the weather.

The weatherman gives us our weather reports.

The weatherman expects rain next week.

Now listen to a short conversation about the fall.

- A: What a beautiful day!
- B: Isn't it? Fall's my favorite season. Look at that blue sky!
- A: Yes, and the leaves are so pretty.

  They are mostly red and yellow.
- B: It's so nice and cool, too.
  I could use a coat.
- A: I could, too.

I slept under a blanket last night.

- B: Are you going to the football game this weekend?
- A: Yes, I am.

I hope it doesn't rain.

B: I don't think it will.

It's supposed to be dry, sunny, and cool this weekend.

Now listen to the conversation again and repeat it.

Listen to these questions about the conversation and answer them immediately. Repeat the correct response after it has been given.

Example: What season is it?

It is fall. It is fall.

What kind of a day is it?

It is a beautiful day.

How is the sky?

The sky is very blue.

What color are the leaves on the trees?

They are mostly red and yellow.

What may we need to wear in the fall?

We may need to wear a coat.

What did the man sleep under last night?

He slept under a blanket.

Where are they going this weekend?

They are going to a football game.

How is the weather supposed to be?

The weather is supposed to be dry, sunny, and cool.

Here are some sentences using the new words found in this conversation. Listen to them and repeat them.

## blanket

A blanket is usually warm.

We sleep under a blanket when it is cold.

A blanket of leaves covers the ground.

## fall

The weather gets cool in the fall.

I like fall better than summer.

The fall months are September, October, and November.

## game

Most people like to play games.

Have you ever seen a football game?

We play outside games in good weather.

## leaf

Most trees get new leaves each year.

The leaves turn red and yellow in the fall.

Some trees keep their leaves all year.

#### season

The year has four seasons.

Summer is the season for vacations.

Fall is the season when the leaves turn red.

## sky

The sun is in the sky.

The sky is generally blue.

The sky is gray when there are clouds.

## sleep

 $\stackrel{
ightharpoonup}{ ext{We usually sleep at night.}}$ 

Do you go to sleep early or late?

We shouldn't sleep in class.

## sunny

The weather is sunny today.

We all like sunny weather.

It was not sunny yesterday; it was cloudy.

Here are some sentences containing clauses used to describe nouns or pronouns. Listen to these sentences and repeat them.

Where is the book he was reading?

This is the suit I bought last week.

Is this the movie you were talking about?

He knows the man I saw.

This is my friend who wrote the book.

Summer is the time the weather gets hot.

The car they bought is old.

Do you remember the time we met them?

Tom received the letter I wrote yesterday.

She is the girl who came late.

He is the one who speaks English well.

Are you the one who came first?

Is this the bus that goes downtown?

These are the students who just arrived.

Bob just bought a car that goes very fast.

#### **TAPE 1403B**

Listen to this conversation about the winter.

A: Brr! Let's go in.

I'm freezing.

B: This wind is like a knife.

A: It's supposed to snow tomorrow.

B: Is it? In this climate you can't tell.
It might rain or snow.
I'd rather have snow than rain.

The snow's pretty and the children enjoy it.

A: I don't mind anything except ice.
The streets got icy last year.
I slipped and almost hurt myself.

B: Yes. Slippery streets are really dangerous.

They're bad for driving, too.

A: Well, here's my house. Come in.

Let's have some coffee and get warm.

Now listen to the conversation again and repeat it.

Here are some questions on the conversation. Answer them and then repeat the correct answers.

Example: What season is it?

It is winter. It is winter.

How is the wind?

The wind is like a knife.

What is the weather supposed to do tomorrow?

It's supposed to snow.

Who enjoys snow?

The children enjoy snow.

Is driving dangerous on slippery streets?

Yes, it is very dangerous.

Here are some sentences using new words from this conversation. Repeat these sentences.

## slip

He slipped on the icy street. She slipped and fell on the ice. The dish slipped out of my hand.

#### slippery

Ice is usually slippery.
Rain makes the streets slippery.
We should drive carefully on slippery roads.

## snow

Snow falls in winter. Snow is white and cold. How deep is the snow?

#### winter

Winter is the cold season.

Do you enjoy winter sports?

Roads are often slippery in winter.

Now listen to this conversation about spring.

- A: What a pretty day!
- B: Yes. It's nice to have some spring weather.
  We had so much snow this winter.
- A: Are the flowers blooming in your garden yet?
- B: Yes, all the early spring flowers are blooming.
  All the trees are getting new leaves, too.
- A: Do you think it will rain this afternoon?

  I see some clouds.
- B: The weather report says showers.It'll probably clear up before evening though.It'll just be a light spring rain.
- A: The sun is certainly warm enough now.
- B: Yes, it feels good, doesn't it?
  I wish spring lasted all year.

Now listen to the conversation again and repeat it.

Here are some questions on this conversation. Answer them and then repeat the correct answer after it has been given.

Example: What kind of a day is it?

It is a pretty day. It is a pretty day.

Did we have much snow during the winter?

Yes, we had a lot of snow.

What is blooming in the garden?

The flowers are blooming in the garden.

When do the trees get new leaves?

They get new leaves in the spring.

What do we see in the sky?

We see some clouds in the sky.

What does the weather report say about this afternoon?

It says showers.

Will we have much rain?

We will have a light rain.

When will it probably clear up?

It will probably clear up before evening.

Now let's use some of the new words in this conversation in sentences. Listen to these sentences and repeat them.

## bloom

Many flowers bloom in the spring.

Are your flowers blooming yet?

The fruit trees bloomed well this year.

## clear up

It has cleared up; the clouds are gone.

I hope it will clear up tomorrow.

My problems have cleared up; they are gone.

#### garden

We have many flowers in our garden. Do you have a garden around the house? He has a good vegetable garden.

## nice

The weather is nice today.

We have a lot of nice days in the spring.

It was nice of them to come.

## spring

Spring is a beautiful season.

The weather often changes in the spring.

We enjoy the spring after the cold winter.

Here are some pairs of sentences. The first sentence in each pair is in the future tense. The second sentence is in the future perfect. Notice the difference. Repeat the sentences.

John will write a letter every week.

John will have written a letter by tomorrow.

We'll eat breakfast at eight o'clock.
We'll have eaten breakfast before eight o'clock.

They'll write the homework tonight. They'll have written the homework by class time.

I'll get the money tomorrow.
I'll have gotten the money before you arrive.

It will rain tonight.
It will have rained by tomorrow morning.

Albert will cut the grass soon.

Albert will have cut the grass before he leaves.

Will you read the lesson?
Will you have read the lesson before Monday?

They will fix the car today.

They'll have fixed the car before you need it.

Mary will arrive on time.

Mary will have arrived before you get here.

The grass will die in the fall. The grass will have died by winter. Here are some sentences with two clauses. Notice the verb tenses in these clauses. Repeat the sentences.

Do you enjoy music while you're eating? Yes, I enjoy music while I'm eating.

Did you learn the words before you came to class? Yes, I learned the words before I came to class.

Will John go to another city when he finishes here? Yes, he'll go somewhere else when he finishes here.

Where did you study English before you came here? We studied English in school before we came here.

Has he studied hard since he has been here? Yes, he has worked hard since he has been here.

What should we visit when we go to New York? We should visit the museums when we go to New York.

Will you visit us when you are here? I'll visit you if I have time.

Have you enjoyed the theater when you have been in town? I've always enjoyed the theater whenever I've been in town.

Did you wait until the bus arrived?
Yes, we waited at the station until the bus arrived.

Will John be here when I return? Yes, John will wait until you get back.