

Snow Chaos in Britain

Last winter, heavy snow caused all sorts of problems in Britain.

Many airports had to be closed because the snow fell more quickly than the runways could be cleared. Planes had to be sent to other countries to land. Some passengers were trapped inside planes on runways because they were already on board when the snow fell. The ground crews could not even get the steps back to the planes.

Fresh snow falling on icy roads made them very slippery. People struggled to get to work in their cars because of the traffic moving so slowly and the many accidents. One report told of a man phoning the police to report a jack-knifed lorry on the south bound carriageway of the M6 Motorway when suddenly, another lorry jack-knifed on the north bound carriageway! The road ended up completely blocked.

Hundreds of schools up and down the country were closed because of the snow. Local radio stations were used to inform parents about school closures. Many teachers got stuck on the roads and so were not available to take classes.



One Lancashire headteacher, Roger Wilson, skied to his school when the weather became really bad!

Many families decided to take advantage of the unexpected time off. Parents and children could be seen shooting down hillsides on sledges, making giant snowmen and having huge snowball fights. However, it was reported that swimmers in Budleigh Salterton did not change their plans because of the snow. "I swim in the sea every day of the year," said Mary Waters. "A bit of snow is not going to put me off!"

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Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

Last winter snow caused problems in Britain. Many

1 **roads** **airports** **docks** **stations**

were closed because runways could not be cleared fast enough. People struggled to get to work by

2 **bicycle** **walking** **bus** **car**

because of the many accidents. The M6 motorway was completely blocked when

3 **two** **three** **four** **five**

lorries 'jack-knifed' in the snow. Many

4 **cars** **lorries** **buses** **teachers**

got stuck on roads and were not available to take classes. Parents and children could be seen shooting down hillsides on

5 **bicycles.** **snowmen.** **sledges.** **snowballs.**

However, in Budleigh Salterton, some

6 **athletes** **swimmers** **footballers** **cyclists**

did not change their plans because of the snow.

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Section B

1 Which lady swimmer was not put off by the snow?

2 What made the roads 'very slippery'?

3 How did parents and children know if their school was closed because of the snow?

4 How did one headteacher get to school when the snow was really bad?

5 How do you think the people inside the plane felt when they were trapped by the snow?

6 What does the phrase 'take advantage of the unexpected time off' mean?

Section C

Write about all the things you would do if you were unable to go to school because of heavy snow!

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Section A

- 1) airports
- 2) car
- 3) two
- 4) teachers
- 5) sledges
- 6) swimmers

Section B

- 1) Mary Waters
 - 2) Fresh snow falling on icy roads.
 - 3) Local radio stations informed parents.
 - 4) Skied
 - 5) Open ended. Accept answers that are supported by a statement.
 - 6) Use the time to do something different/special/something they had not been expecting to do.
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