

Title	Weather warfare!	Level: higher
-------	------------------	---------------

Text:	<p>An unusual topic surfaced this week when looking at an event in history.</p> <p>Did you know that an international treaty, originally signed by 30 nations but now by 77, that bans weather warfare, was signed this week in 1978.</p> <p>"Weather warfare? What's that?", you say!</p> <p>It was first used by the US Army in the Vietnam War at great cost, and with unclear results.</p> <p>Firing chemical bullets into the sky to cause the formation of clouds, known as cloud seeding, was a technique used to try and induce the rainy season earlier than expected. The hope was that the wet and muddy conditions on the ground would make it difficult for opposing forces to make gains, putting the US Army at an advantage.</p> <p>More recently, the Chinese were said to have used similar methods to make the Olympics in 2008 a dry one!</p>
Question for discussion:	<p>Tell us what you would change about the weather. Explain how you think you could achieve it.</p>
Words and usage:	<p>1, '(be +verb) to try and .....</p> <p>If a new product or idea is made to attempt to improve a situation, we often use this phrase.</p> <p>For example, 'a new local security campaign was started to try and stop vandalism.'</p> <p>2, 'were said to have used...'</p> <p>Looking back at a past time from a past time point, we can use this for passive forms when talking about others' actions.</p> <p>'Be.....' can also followed by 'said', 'known', 'reported' and 'believed'.</p>
Resources:	<p><a href="http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com">Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</a></p> <p><a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org">The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</a></p>
Listening link:	<p><a href="#">Weather warfare!</a></p>



Practice idea:

Recall any events you were involved in that tried to improve a situation, whether at work, home or in your local area.

Quiz Me!  
Conversation  
card:

Card number A5 below is from Level 2 pack available at [englishbooks.jp](http://englishbooks.jp)



**What is  
the worst weather  
you have  
experienced?**

**quizme.jp**