

puddle

Children splashed through the
puddles.

Be pouring with rain

It was pouring down with rain at
three o'clock.

Blizzard – a severe snow storm

We got stuck in a blizzard.

Drought

- We had a drought last summer. It didn't rain for six weeks.

Gentle breeze- wind -strong wind-blustery day-gale-hurricane

There's a good wind today; fancy
going sailing? It's a very blustery day;
the umbrella will just blow away.

Heavy/torrential/pouring rain

- There will be heavy rain in most parts of the country.
- The light rain stopped.
- A heavy shower of rain
- An inch of rain fell in an hour.
- As the first drops of rain fell, they ran for cover.
- It was pouring with rain, and Laura only had a thin dress on.
- It looks like rain, so let's go inside.

Boiling (hot)- hot- warm- not very warm – cool - cold/chilly- freezing

- It was a boiling hot morning.
- Can I open the window? It's boiling in here.
- The evening air was cool

Heavy fall of snow

Snow was falling heavily as we entered the village.

Icy

- An icy wind (extremely cold)
- The water was icy cold
- An icy mountain road (covered with ice)

hurricane

a storm that has very strong fast winds and that moves over water

A hurricane/heavy storm hits the cost

It's three days after Hurricane Katrina
hit the US cost.

Bright weather

if the weather is bright, the sun
shines strongly

**Fair - sunny and not windy or rainy -
used especially in weather forecasts**

*It should be generally fair and warm
for the next few days.*

To cause major/minor problems

The heavy rain has caused major
transport problems

sleet

a mixture of snow and rain

slush

a mixture of partly melted snow and
ice

**A fine evening, isn't it? It's
wonderful out/outside**

What's the weather like?

Rather warm/cool/ cold, isn't it?

The weather forecast said it would be
fine all day.

The weather turned bitterly cold.

Spell of weather

We're having a spell of hot/wonderful/wet weather

- Wet – rainy
- *There's more **wet weather** on the way.*
- ***It's** very **wet** outside.*
- *the wettest summer on record*
- Dry - having very little rain :
- *Eastern areas should stay dry tomorrow.*
- *the **dry season***
- *These plants do not grow well in **dry conditions** (=when there is not much rain).*
- *a prolonged **dry spell** (=period)*

Weather patterns

*changes in **weather patterns** caused
by global warming*

Summer/winter/season, etc. can be:

- Humid: if the weather is humid, you feel uncomfortable because the air is very wet and usually hot:
- *Tokyo is extremely humid in mid-summer.*
- Dry: with little or no rainfall or humidity:
- *the West Coast has had two dry winters in a row*

**What a clear/starlit/cloudless
night! Not a cloud in the sky!**

heavy/thick/dense etc clouds:

Dark clouds floated across the moon.

*Heavy **clouds** had **gathered** over the summit
of Mont Blanc.*

Visibility was bad due to low cloud.

**I expect we'll have a fine day.
The sun is coming out.**

*We sat in the sun, eating ice cream.
the warmth of the afternoon sun*

**What a fine/ nice/ most lovely/
glorious day!**

glorious weather is sunny and hot:
glorious sunshine

Weather conditions

*The climbers reached the top, in spite
of bad **weather conditions**.*

In all weathers

in all types of weather, even when it is
very hot or cold:

*There are homeless people sleeping on
the streets in all weathers.*

**I think it will continue/keep fine.
The weather is improving I
should say. It will clear up by
and by. It's clearing up.**

if the weather, sky, mist etc *clears* (up), it
becomes better and there is more sun:

The haze usually clears by lunchtime.

*Balmy - pleasantly warm, with a gentle wind
blowing*

**It's beginning to drizzle. There's a fine
drizzling rain. The rain is still falling. It's
coming down hard (in torrents, in
buckets).**

if it is drizzling, light rain and mist come
out of the sky:

The rain isn't too bad - it's only drizzling.

*To feel under the weather (informal) –
slightly ill:*

You look a bit under the weather.

It seems a dull (wet, damp, gloomy)
day. What a rainy/ cloudy/
foggy/windy/ stormy day. It's hazy/
misty

- Dull – not bright and with lots of clouds (dull sky)
- Gloomy - sad because you think the situation will not improve; dark, especially in a way that makes you feel sad (*It was a gloomy room with one small window*).

I expect we'll have rain (a shower, a thunderstorm). It will turn out a wet day. It won't keep fine. We're in for bad/ cold/ rainy/ freezing weather.

Thunderstorm - a storm with thunder and lightning

Lightning - a powerful flash of light in the sky caused by electricity and usually followed by THUNDER:

Lightning flashed overhead.

**It's a dull morning, isn't it? Rather
nasty out! Beastly weather! What
wretched/frightful/terrible/awful
weather!**

Wretched - extremely bad or
unpleasant

Grey, dull - cloudy and not bright

**The sky is overcast. The clouds
are hanging low in the sky.**

Overcast - dark with clouds:

*The sky was overcast and a light rain
began to fall.*

Don't get caught in the rain/ a shower! You'll get wet through and through. I'm drenched/soaked/wet to the skin. My clothes are soaking wet.

Drenched - covered with a lot of a liquid:
He changed out of his rain-drenched clothes.

**It has stopped/ceased/left off
raining. But the weather is so
uncertain/unsettled/changeable.**

Unsettled: if the weather is unsettled, it
keeps changing and it often rains.

Uncertain - not clear, definite, or decided
The English weather is never the same two
days running.

**There's hardly a breath of air
(there's not a breath of air). Not a
leaf is stirring. No wonder, with
such a blazing (scorching) sun.**

Blazing – extremely hot, shining
intensely (*a blazing August afternoon*)

Scorching - extremely hot, hot and dry
enough to burn or parch a surface; (*the
scorching desert heat*)

Parch - if the sun or wind parches
something, it makes it very dry

hot: boiling/scorching/sizzling/blazing/
burning/baking/broiling (hot)

-extremely hot

sweltering - very hot and humid and
feeling uncomfortable

- *Boiling* – (spoken) very hot [\neq freezing]. *Can I open a window? It's boiling in here.*
- *Sizzling* (especially American English) – very hot (= boiling)
- *broiling* weather, sun etc makes you feel extremely hot [= boiling]. A broiling day.

**A heat wave is coming on. Hot
weather has set in.**

heatwave -a period of unusually hot
weather

It's a hot/close/stifling/dusty/sultry/sticky day. The air is humid.

- *Close* - uncomfortably warm because there seems to be no air. *The weather that night was hot and close, with a hint of thunder in the distance.*
- *Stifling*: a room or weather that is stifling is very hot and uncomfortable, so that it seems difficult to breathe. *The stifling heat of the tropics.*
- Weather that is *sultry* is hot with air that feels wet. *Since the rain, the air had become heavy and still and sultry.*
- Weather that is *sticky* makes you feel uncomfortably hot, wet, and dirty[= humid]. *It was hot and sticky and there was nowhere to sit.*

The rain is still falling. It's pouring/
lightning/thundering/hailing. There goes a
flash of lightning! Do you hear the crashing of
the thunder? What a tremendous clap of
thunder!

- *Tremendous* - very big, fast, powerful etc.
- *Clap* - a sudden loud noise. *An ear-splitting clap of thunder.*

It's been raining off and on for a week now. We've been having rain for a week now.

Off and on – now and then, from time to time

The heat is unbearable (oppressive)

Weather that is oppressive is unpleasantly hot with no movement of air. *The oppressive heat of the afternoon.*

It's 30 degrees in the shade. The temperature is rising (going up).

Temperatures rarely rise above freezing.

**Snow is falling. What soft, fluffy,
large snowflakes! They're coming
down thick. There's a thick/heavy
snowfall.**

Fluffy – very light and soft to touch

Snowflake - a small soft flat piece of frozen
water that falls as snow

wintry - cold and snowy or rainy, like the
weather in winter

The river is frozen over. The frost has locked the river. Cold weather has set in. The thermometer is at zero. I'm shivering. My teeth are clattering with the cold.

Set in - (of something unpleasant or unwelcome)
begin and seem likely to continue

Shiver - to shake slightly because you are cold or
frightened (shiver with cold)

If heavy hard objects *clatter*, or if you clatter them,
they make a loud unpleasant noise

arctic - extremely cold, usually with a lot of ice and
snow

**It's getting chilly. What a
cold/frosty day! It's extremely/
bitterly/beasty cold out!**

Crisp - if the air is crisp, it feels cold
but pleasantly fresh and clear

A strong wind has risen. The wind is blowing the snow high in the air. It looks as if we're going to have a snowstorm.

Blustery – very windy

**There's been a thaw (it's thawing).
The snow and ice are melting. It's
slushy/muddy/dirty out. Look out
for the slush and mud puddles. It's
still very slippery in places.**

Thaw - a period of warm weather during which snow
and ice melt. The thaw begins in March.

Something that is *slippery* is difficult to hold, walk on
etc. because it is wet or greasy. *In places, the path can
be wet and slippery.*

chilly - a little too cold, in a way that makes you feel
uncomfortable

cool - a little cold, in a way that is pleasant

**It's been a hard/severe/mild
winter. But spring is in the air.**

severe weather is very bad and very
extreme, and very hot, dry, cold etc

Mild - fairly warm. *We had an exceptionally
mild winter last year.*

cold snap/cold spell - a period of unusually
cold weather

**It's freezing. We're having
severe/hard frost. We're having a
sudden spell of cold weather. I'm
chilled to the bone.**

Spell -a period of a particular kind of
activity, weather, illness etc, usually a
short period

**Thick/dense/freezing fog. The fog
lifted (disappeared) in the
afternoon.**

Fog – cloudy air near the ground which
is difficult to see through. Quite thick,
associated with cold weather.

Dense - difficult to see through or
breathe in

**Next morning the whole town
was covered in mist.**

Mist – light fog, often on the sea or
caused by drizzle

**The sun was surrounded by a
golden haze**

Haze -light mist usually caused by
heat

smog

Smog -a mixture of fog and pollution
(smoke)

Damp-drizzle-pour down/downpour-torrential rain-flood

Damp – slightly wet, often in an unpleasant way. A cold, damp day.
It was absolutely *pouring down/* there was a real *downpour*

Torrential rain

In the tropics there's usually
torrential rain most days, and the
roads often get flooded

shower

Shower - short period of rain or snow

This rain won't last long. It's only a shower.

Hail/ hailstones

Hail - frozen rain drops which fall as hard balls of ice. *Heavy showers of rain and hail.*

Hailstone - a small ball of frozen rain.

Hailstones were battering the roof of our car.