

Meteorology A – Z

A is for the **ATMOSPHERE**, a blanket of air surrounding Earth

B is for the **BURNING SUN**, which is a million times greater in size than the earth. It is our main source of heat and light.

C is for **CLOUD**, a visible body of fine water droplets or ice particles suspended in the atmosphere.

D is for **DANGEROUS WEATHER**, such as floods, thunderstorms, ice and gales.

E is for the **EVAPORATION** of water into vapour by the heat of the sun.

F is for **FRONT**, the invisible line between a cold air mass and a warm air mass.

G is for **GALE**, when the wind speed is very strong and dangerous.

H is for **HUMIDITY**, the amount of water vapour in the air. Humidity is high on muggy days.

I is for **ICE**, which is frozen water. The freezing point of water is 0°C.

J is for the **JET STREAM**, an air stream blowing from west to east, which has important effects on the formation of weather fronts.

K is for **KHAMSIN**, a dry dusty hot wind blowing over the Red Sea from the Sahara Desert.

L is for **LIGHTNING**, caused by electrically charged cumulonimbus clouds.

M is for **MERCURY**, a substance found in thermometers.

N is for **NIMBUS**, the Latin word for rain. It also describes a certain cloud group from which rain is falling i.e. cumulonimbus.

O is for **OBSERVATION**, how we look at the sky and keep a watchful eye on the changing weather.

P is for the **PRESSURE** of air – similar to the weight of the air above us. Cool air is heavier than warm air.

Q is for **QUALITY FORECASTS** issued by Met Éireann to the public.

R is for **RAINBOW**, made up of 7 colours, and seen in the sky around the time of a sun shower.

S is for **SNOW**, ice crystals that fall from clouds. On cold days they remain frozen until they touch the ground.

T is for **TEMPERATURE**, the degree of hotness or coldness of something. Celsius and Fahrenheit scales are used when measuring temperature.

UV is for **ULTRAVIOLET** sunlight. Be careful to wear plenty of sun protection on warm days.

X Y Z ...is up to you!