

### 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 rain 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.

**W** is for **WATER VAPOUR**, which is always present in the air.

**X Y Z** ...is up to you!