

Glossary

anemometer A tool used to measure wind speed. Wind speed can help predict the weather. An anemometer measures wind speed.

cirrus clouds Wispy, high clouds. Cirrus clouds are made of ice crystals. Cirrus clouds often mean fair weather.

condensation A gas changes to a liquid. When a gas cools it clumps together to make liquid. This is condensation. Clouds form because of condensation. Condensation forms on the bathroom mirror when you take a shower.

cumulus clouds Puffy, middle clouds. Cumulus clouds may have a flat bottom. Cumulus clouds often mean clear weather.

dew Drops of water that form when wet air touches a cool surface. Water vapor condenses on a cool surface. You see dew on grass in the morning. As the temperature rises, the dew evaporates.

evaporation A liquid changes to a gas. Evaporation happens faster when liquid heats up. The sun makes water evaporate from lakes, rivers, and oceans. Then the water vapor is part of the air.

frost Ice that forms when wet air touches a cold surface. Water vapor changes to solid ice on a very cold surface. You can see frost on windows some mornings. As the temperature rises, the frost melts.

precipitation Water or ice that falls from clouds. Precipitation can fall as rain, snow, sleet, hail, or freezing rain. The type of precipitation depends on the air temperature.

rain gauge A tool to measure rain. Rain is measured by how many inches deep it is in the rain gauge.

seasons Summer, fall, winter, and spring. We have seasons because the hours of sun change all year. Some places have hot summers and cold winters. Other places have dry summers and wet winters. In the northern part of Earth, winter starts on a day in December. Spring starts in March. Summer starts in June. Fall starts in September.

stratus clouds Flat, low clouds. Stratus clouds make the sky overcast. Stratus clouds often bring rain.

temperature How hot or cold something is. Thermometers measure temperature. In the United States, temperature is in degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

thermometer A tool used to measure temperature. If the air gets cold, the temperature on a thermometer goes down. If the air gets warm, the temperature on a thermometer goes up.

water vapor Water as a gas. On Earth, water is found as a liquid, solid, and gas. We drink liquid water. Ice is solid water. Water vapor is invisible.

weather Outside conditions, such as rainy, sunny, or cloudy. It helps to know what the weather will be like. We can plan which clothes to wear. We know what things we can do outside.

wind Moving air. Sometimes wind blows. Other times it does not. A change in wind can mean a change in weather.

wind vane A tool to measure wind direction. Wind direction is where wind comes from. Wind from different directions brings different weather. In many places, a north wind brings cooler weather.