

WEATHER GLOSSARY

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ANEMOMETER	Weather instrument that shows the speed of the wind.
BAROMETER	Weather instrument used to measure changes in air pressure. High pressure indicates dry, warmer weather and low pressure indicates poorer, stormy weather. A sudden drop in pressure indicates a storm or rain.
BOILING	The hottest temperature that a liquid can get and remain a liquid. The liquid rapidly changes to a gas at its boiling point.
CLOUD	A mass of water droplets and ice particles floating in the air.
CONDENSATION	When a gas cools and becomes a liquid. Clouds form due to condensation. When you take a shower, condensation occurs on the cold mirror.
DEW	Water vapors that cools when it touches a cold object (e.g., leaves), usually seen in the morning.
EVAPORATION	The change from a liquid to a gas that occurs at the surface of all liquids. Warmer temperatures increase the rate of evaporation.
FREEZING	When a liquid becomes a solid.
FRONTS	When warm and cold air masses meet they don't mix but form a front usually hundreds of miles long, bringing a change in weather. It is called a cold front if the cold air mass forces warm air to rise above it. It is called a warm front when warm air pushes the cold air ahead. A cold front often produces high winds and thunderstorms if the air is moist. If a warm front is dry, it means fair weather. When the warm front is moist, it means several days of rain. When the front moves on, it usually means fair weather for a few days, and the barometer goes up.
FROST	Tiny ice crystals that form when water vapor changes directly to ice on the surface of exposed objects.
GREENHOUSE EFFECT	A warming process in which the Sun's heat is temporarily trapped in atmosphere by certain atmospheric gases such as water vapor, carbon dioxide, and methane.
HUMIDITY	The percent of water vapor in the air. The higher the humidity (amount of water in the air), the warmer the temperature is when dew forms. With low humidity, dew forms at cooler temperatures.
METEOROLOGIST	A person who studies and analyzes the weather. The weather reporter talks about the effects of high and low pressures and warm and cold fronts on the TV weather report.

TORNADO	A severe funnel-shaped storm in which winds blow very rapidly around an area of very low pressure.
WATER CYCLE	The continuous movement of water in the environment through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.
WIND	Air moving through the atmosphere. The direction the wind comes from and its speed help predict the weather. A rapid increase in wind often means approaching rain, snow, or thunderstorms. Wind from the north often means colder temperatures.