# Weather and Climate Wordlist

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| **Word** | **Definition** | **Contextual sentence** | **Translation** |
| **affect** | to change or influence something. If something affects something else, it has an effect on it. verb [transitive] |  |  |
| **air** | the mixture of gases surrounding the Earth that we breathe. noun [uncountable] | Do we really want all these cars polluting the air? |  |
| **airfront** | a boundary line between two air masses. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **altitude** | the height of a place or object above sea level. noun [countable] | Breathing can be difficult at high altitudes. |  |
| **anemometer** | an instrument used for measuring wind speed. noun [count] |  |  |
| **anti-clockwise** | moving in the direction opposite to the direction of the hands of a clock. adjective, adverb |  |  |
| **anticyclone** | an area of high air pressure that produces calm weather with very little wind. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **anti-trades** | winds that blow continuously away from the equator. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **aqueduct** | a structure like a bridge that takes water across a valley. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **ascend** | to rise into the air. **verb [intransitive]** |  |  |
| **atmospheric** | relating to or existing in the atmosphere round the Earth or round another planet. adjective [only before noun] | atmospheric pressure |  |
| **autumn** | The season of the year that comes between summer and winter. noun [count/uncount] |  |  |
| **barometer** | a piece of equipment that shows you what kind of weather to expect. It measures atmospheric pressure.  noun [countable] |  |  |
| **Beaufort Scale, the** | a series of numbers from 0 to 12 that are used to show how strongly the wind is blowing. 0 means that there is no wind and 12 means that there is a hurricane. **noun [countable]** |  |  |
| **blanket** | a thick layer of something, for example snow or cloud, that completely covers an area  noun [singular] | a blanket of fog |  |
| **blizzard** | a storm with a lot of snow and strong winds. **noun [count]** | Roads were closed due to severe blizzards. |  |
| **block** | to stop something from moving through or along something else. **verb [transitive]** | Something is blocking the flow of water through the pipe. |  |
| **blow** | if wind or air blows, the air moves. verb [intransitive] | A strong wind was blowing across the moors. |  |
| **blustery** | 1 with strong winds  1a blowing strongly  adjective | blustery conditions  blustery winds |  |
| **breeze** | a light wind. noun [countable] | a gentle/​light/​slight breezea fresh/​stiff/​strong breeze |  |
| **cactus** | a plant that grows in deserts and has thick stems and sharp points called spines [plural = cacti]. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **calculate** | to discover a number or amount using mathematics or with a piece of equipment such as a calculator. **verb [transitive]** |  |  |
| **calm** | if the weather is calm, there is very little wind. adjective | We’re going to see a period of calmer weather starting this weekend. |  |
| **Campbell-Stokes recorder** | an instrument used to measure the hours of sunshine each day. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **Celsius** | a system for measuring temperature that is part of the metric system, in which water freezes at 0 degrees and boils at 100 degrees. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **centigrade** | an old fashioned measurement of temperature. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **changeable** | tending to change suddenly and often. adjective | a period of rather changeable weather |  |
| **chart** | 1 a list, drawing, or graph showing information in a way that is easy to understand. noun [countable]  2 a map, especially one used for planning what direction a ship or aircraft will travel in. noun [countable] | Enter your results on the chart. |  |
| **chill factor** | the cooling effect of the wind. noun [uncount] |  |  |
| **cirrus** | a type of thin cloud found very high in the sky. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **clear** | If the sky or the weather is clear, there are no clouds, rain etc. **adjective** | clear blue skies |  |
| **climate** | 1 the type of weather that a country or region has  a hot/​cold/​mild/​warm climate: Mexico is renowned for its hot climate and spicy food. noun [uncountable]  1a an area that has a particular type of weather. noun[countable] | Mexico is renowned for its hot climate and spicy food.  [1a]Many northern Europeans spend their holidays in warmer climates. |  |
| **climatic** | relating to the climate of a country or region. adjective | the effects of climatic change |  |
| **climb** | if a temperature, price, or the level of something climbs, it becomes higher. **verb [intransitive]** | Temperatures climbed into the 90s. |  |
| **clockwise** | moving in a circle in the same direction as the hands on a clock. adjective, adverb |  |  |
| **cloud** | a white or grey mass of very small drops of water in the sky. noun [countable/uncountable] | A few white clouds drifted across the sky. |  |
| **cloudless** | a cloudless sky has no clouds in it. **adjective** |  |  |
| **cloudy** | full of clouds. adjective | a cool cloudy morning |  |
| **cold front** | the place where a moving mass of cold air meets a mass of warm air. Cold fronts usually cause heavy rain and they sometimes cause thunder. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **concentrated** | 1 concentrated liquids or substances have been made stronger by having water removed. adjective  2 directed completely at one thing, person, or place. adjective [only before noun] |  |  |
| **condensation** | 1 the water on windows or walls that forms when steam or warm air changes into liquid  2 science the process in which a gas changes into a liquid, usually when it becomes cooler.  noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **condense** | if gas or steam condenses, or if something condenses it, it changes into a liquid, usually when it becomes cooler. verb [intransitive/transitive] |  |  |
| **conditions** | the weather, especially when it is bad. **noun [plural]** | The storm brought freezing conditions across much of the country. |  |
| **coniferous** | **1** a coniferous tree produces cones. **Adjective**  **1a** a coniferous forest has only conifers growing in it. **adjective.** |  |  |
| **consequence** | a result or effect of something. **noun [count]** | Climate change could have disastrous consequences for farmers. |  |
| **constant** | continuing at the same rate, level, or amount over a particular period of time. **adjective** | Maintain a constant speed. |  |
| **control** | to have the power to make decisions and decide what will happen to something. **verb [transitive]** | Most of the new media were controlled by the central government. |  |
| **convection** | the process by which the very small parts in a liquid or gas move and give out heat. **noun [uncountable]** |  |  |
| **convectional**  **rain** | convectional rain occurs when air rises from a warm land surface. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **cool** | 1 rather cold, often in a pleasant way. adjective  2 **cool** or **cool down** to become cooler, or to make something cooler. verb [intransitive/transitive] | Tomorrow it will be cloudy and cool everywhere. |  |
| **Coriolis effect, the** | the reason that winds in the northern hemisphere are deflected to the right and winds in the southern hemisphere are deflected to the left due to the rotation of the Earth on its axis from west to east. |  |  |
| **cumulonimbus** | a mass of very tall thick cloud that usually brings rain and sometimes thunder. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **cumulus** | a large low white cloud that is round at the top and flat at the bottom. Cumulus clouds form at the lower levels of the atmosphere. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **current** | 1 a strong movement of water in one direction  2 a strong movement of air in one direction  noun [countable] | Strong currents and winds swept their boat out to sea.  Birds of prey use air currents to lift them. |  |
| **cyclonic rain** | cyclonic rain is associated with low pressure systems. It forms at the fronts where warm and cold air masses meet. noun [uncount] |  |  |
| **cylinder** | an object shaped like a wide tube noun [countable] |  |  |
| **cypress** | a sweet tree with dark green leaves that do not fall off in winter. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **date** | a sweet brown sticky fruit with a hard narrow seed inside that grows on palm trees. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **deciduous** | deciduous trees lose all their leaves each autumn. **adjective** |  |  |
| **deflection** | the action of making something go in a different direction, especially by hitting it. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| **degree** | 1 a unit for measuring temperature.  Measurements are often expressed as a number followed by the symbol °. noun [countable]  2 a unit for measuring angles.  Measurements are often expressed as a number followed by the symbol °. noun [countable] | It will probably be a few degrees colder by the weekend.  The two lines meet at a 90 degrees angle |  |
| **depression** | a large mass of air at low pressure that usually brings cooler weather and rain. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **desert** | a large area of dry land that usually gets very little rain and has no permanent rivers, lakes etc. Very few plants or animals grow or live there. Most deserts are in hot regions, but there are some in very cold regions. **noun [count/uncount]** | The Sahara Desert is the biggest desert in the world. |  |
| **desertification** | the process by which land becomes so dry that it cannot be used for farming. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **dew** | small drops of water that form on the ground during the night. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **dominate** | to be the most important issue, activity, problem etc in a particular situation. **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | The earthquake once again dominated the news. |  |
| **drift** | to be pushed along very slowly by the movement of air or water. **verb [intransitive]** | The boat started to drift out to sea. |  |
| **drizzle** | 1 to rain in a very light way. verb [intransitive] |  |  |
| **drop** | 1 if the wind drops, it becomes less strong. verb [intransitive]  2 a very small amount of liquid with a round shape. noun [count]  3 a fall in the amount or value of something. noun [count] usually singular] | I felt a drop of rain on my face. |  |
| **droplet** | a very small drop of liquid. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **drought** | a long period of time when there is little or no rain and crops die. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **dry season** | a period of the year in some countries during which rain does not usually fall. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **dust bowl** | a region where there are a lot of dust storms because the soil has become dry from lack of rain. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **easterly** | a wind that blows from the east (plural: easterlies). noun [countable] |  |  |
| **elements, the** | the weather, especially wind and rain. noun [plural] | The hood provides added protection against the elements. |  |
| **emit** | 1 to send something out into the air, especially gas, light, or heat. verb [transitive] |  |  |
| **equator, the** | an imaginary line that goes round the Earth and divides it into the northern and southern hemispheres. noun [singular] |  |  |
| **equatorial** | near the equator, or typical of conditions near the equator. adjective |  |  |
| **evaporation** | when liquid changes into gas or steam. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **evergreen** | 1 a tree or plant that does not lose its leaves in winter. noun [count]  2 covered in green leaves all year long, not only in summer. adjective |  |  |
| **exert** | to put force or physical pressure on something.  verb [intransitive] |  |  |
| **expand** | to become larger in size and fill more space. **verb [intransitive]** | The water froze inside the pipe, causing it to expand and burst. |  |
| **exposed** | not protected from the weather. **adjective** | an exposed site on the hill |  |
| **Ferrel’s law** | the law that predicts the directions of the large-scale circulations of the Earth’s atmosphere and oceans. It is a restatement in global terms of the action of the Coriolis force. |  |  |
| **fertility** | the ability of the soil to produce a lot of good crops or plants. **noun [uncount]** | measures to improve the fertility of the soil. |  |
| **flooding** | a situation in which water from a river or from rain covers large areas of land. **noun [uncount]** | last weekend’s flooding left over 10,000 people homeless. |  |
| **flower** | 1 the coloured part of a plant from which the plant’s fruit develops. A flower is often made up of many petals. **noun [count]**  **2** if a plant flowers, it produces flowers. **verb [intransitive]** | The plant has small white flowers. |  |
| **fog** | a thick cloud that forms close to the ground or to water and is difficult to see through. Fog is thicker than mist. noun [countable/uncountable] | Heavy fog forced drivers to slow down. |  |
| **force** | 1 used with a number for describing how strong a wind is. noun [uncountable]  2 to use physical force to move things in a particular direction. verb [transitive] | Use a strong jet of water to force blockages out of the pipe. |  |
| **forecast** | a statement about what is likely to happen, based on available information and usually relating to the weather, business, or the economy. noun [countable] | The weather forecast is for a dry sunny day tomorrow. |  |
| **front** | a line where a large area of cold air meets a large area of warm air. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **frontal** | relating to a weather front. adjective | a frontal system |  |
| **frost** | 1 a thin white layer of ice that looks like powder and forms on things outside when the weather is very cold. noun [uncountable]  2 a period of weather cold enough to form frost.  noun [countable/uncountable] | bushes covered with frost  A late frost in May could easily kill these delicate plants. |  |
| **funnel** | a tube that is wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, used for pouring liquid or powder into a container. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **gale** | a very strong wind. **noun [count]** | a force nine gale (= a very strong gale) |  |
| **garigue** | an area of low, open scrubland in the Mediterranean area; characterized by small evergreen shrubs and low trees. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **graph** | a picture that uses lines or curves to show the relationship between numbers or measurements that change. noun [countable] | The graph shows that the number of working mothers is increasing. |  |
| **grass** | a very common plant with thin green leaves that covers the ground. A single piece of grass is called a blade of grass. **noun [uncount]** | We should cut the grass before it starts raining. |  |
| **graze** | **1** to eat grass growing in a field. **verb [intransitive]**  **1a** to put an animal in a place where it can eat grass. **verb [transitive]** |  |  |
| **Gulf Stream. the** | a current of warm water that flows from the Gulf of Mexico to the north and east across the Atlantic Ocean towards Europe. **noun** |  |  |
| **gust** | **1** if a wind gusts, it blows strongly for short periods of time. **verb [intransitive]**  **2** a sudden strong wind. **noun [count]** | A gust of wind blew his hat off. |  |
| **hail** | rain that freezes in the sky and falls to the ground as small balls of ice. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **heat** | **1** the quality of being hot, or the degree to which something is hot. **noun [singular/ uncount]**  **1a** the heat very hot weather. | He could feel the heat of the sun on his back.  The local people get out of the city to escape the summer heat. |  |
| **hemisphere** | one half of the Earth. The northern hemisphere is the part of the world north of the equator, and the southern hemisphere is the part south of it. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **high-pressure** | a large amount of force that the air produces in the atmosphere and that usually brings warm, calm weather. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **high** | a period or situation in which something reaches its highest level. noun [countable] | Temperatures today are expected to reach a high of 30 degrees. |  |
| **humid** | hot and wet in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable. adjective |  |  |
| **hurricane** | a violent storm with extremely strong winds and heavy rain. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **hygrometer** | a piece of equipment used for measuring humidity. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **inland** | in a direction away from the coast. **adverb** | The storm moved quickly inland. |  |
| **irrigate** | to bring water to land through a system of pipes, ditches etc. in order to make crops grow. **verb [transitive]** | Parts of the desert have been irrigated. |  |
| **isobar** | a line drawn on a weather map that connects places with the same air pressure. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **isohel** | a line on a weather map that connects places of equal sunshine. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **isohyet** | a line on a weather map that connects places of equal precipitation. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **isoline** | a line on a weather map. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **isotach** | a line on a weather map that connects places of equal wind speed. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **isotherm** | a line on a weather map that connects places of equal temperature. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **land breeze** | a light wind blowing towards the sea from the land, especially at night. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **landmass** | a continent or a large area of land that is urrounded by sea. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **lapse rate** | the rate of change of temperature observed while moving upwards through the atmosphere. |  |  |
| **latitude** | **1** the distance of a point on the Earth from the equator the imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, measured in degrees north or south. **noun [countable/uncountable]**  **2** latitudes a place or region at a particular latitude. **noun [plural]** | The plant grows best in cooler latitudes. |  |
| **lightning** | the bright flashes of light that you see in the sky during a storm. noun [uncountable] | She lay awake, listening to the thunder and lightning. |  |
| **low** | **1** small in amount or level. **adjective**  **2** an area of low pressure. **noun [count]** | Temperatures are usually around the low 30s at this time of year. |  |
| **lows** | used about temperatures. noun [countable] | Overnight lows will be around 5 degrees Celsius. |  |
| **magnetic pole** | a place near the North Pole or the South Pole that a compass points towards. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **mean** | average. **adjective** | Calculate the mean distance travelled. |  |
| **measurement** | 1 the exact size, degree, strength etc of something, usually expressed in numbers of standard units. noun [countable] [often plural]  2 the process of measuring something. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **mercury** | a silver liquid metal element that is used in thermometers. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **meteorology** | the scientific study of weather. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **mild** | mild weather is warm and pleasant, especially warmer than usual for the time of year. adjective | a mild winter |  |
| **millibars** | a unit for measuring air pressure. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **mist** | 1 a mass of small drops of water in the air close to the ground. noun [countable/uncountable] | The early morning mist was clearing to reveal a glorious day. |  |
| **mistral** | a cold, dry wind from the north that is common in the south of France. noun [singular] |  |  |
| **moderate** | neither very great nor very small in amount, size, strength, or degree. adjective | Only moderate rainfall is expected this month. |  |
| **moist** | 1 slightly wet. **adjective**  1a used about a region or weather  adjective |  |  |
| **moisture** | a small amount of water or another liquid in the air, on the surface of something, or in a substance. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **monsoon** | a period of heavy rain in India and Southeast Asia. noun [countable] | Every monsoon, the plain gets completely flooded. |  |
| **nimbostratus** | thick low cloud that carries rain and covers all of the sky. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **north-easterly** | a north-easterly wind blows from the north-east. **adjective** | Sunderland is in the north-east of England. |  |
| **northerly** | a northerly wind blows from the north.  adjective |  |  |
| **oasis** | a place in a desert where there is water and plants and trees grow. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **observation** | a written or spoken comment about something you have seen, heard, or felt. noun [count] | She made several excellent observations in her essay on Charles Dickens. |  |
| **observe** | to watch or study someone or something with care and attention in order to discover something. verb [transitive] |  |  |
| **occluded** | an occluded front is the front formed when a cold front occludes (=overtakes and undercuts) a warm front. **adjective** |  |  |
| **offshore** | an offshore wind is blowing away from the land, towards the sea. noun [usually before noun] | Avoid offshore winds and don’t sail alone. |  |
| **olive** | A small black or green fruit that grows in Mediterranean countries and is eaten as food or used for its oil. It grows on an olive tree. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **onshore** | moving towards land from the sea. adjective | onshore breezes |  |
| **overcast** | with a sky completely full of clouds. adjective |  |  |
| **overhead** | above your head. adjective, adverb | A large white bird flew silently overhead. |  |
| **ozone** | 1 a kind of oxygen that exists high in the Earth’s atmosphere.  2 fresh air that is near the sea  noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **palm** | a palm tree, or a large plant similar to a palm tree. noun [count] | A beach of white sand fringed with coconut palms. |  |
| **period** | 1 an amount of time during which something happens  noun [countable] | The long dry period ended with torrential rain. |  |
| **polar** | 1 coming from or relating to an area near the North Pole or the South Pole. adjective | the polar regions |  |
| **pole** | one of the points on the very top or bottom of the Earth, called the North Pole and the South Pole. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **prairie** | a large flat area in central North America that is covered with grass and farms but has no trees. noun [count] |  |  |
| **precipitation** | rain, snow, hail etc. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **pressure** | the amount of force that a gas or liquid produces in an area or container. **noun [count/uncount]** | an area of high pressure over the Atlantic. |  |
| **prevailing wind** | a wind that blows in a particular area at a particular time of year. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **radar** | a system that uses radio signals for finding the exact position of something such as an aircraft or a ship. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **rain** | 1 water that falls in drops from clouds in the sky. noun [uncountable]  2 when it rains, water falls in drops from clouds in the sky. verb [intransitive] | Visibility was good, with only occasional light rain. People were standing in the rain.  It had been raining heavily all day. |  |
| **rainfall** | the amount of rain that falls in a particular area during a particular period of time. noun [countable/uncountable] | Rainfall is average for the time of the year. |  |
| **rain gauge** | a piece of equipment used for measuring the amount of rain that falls. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **rain shadow** | a region that has little rain because it is protected by a mountain range in the direction of winds that carry rain. As the winds rise over the mountains they drop most of their water before reaching the other side. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **rainstorm** | a storm with a lot of rain. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **rainy season, the** | in some regions of the world, the season in which a lot of rain falls. noun [singular] |  |  |
| **range** | all the numbers, ages, measurements etc that are included within particular fixed limits. noun [countable] | Temperatures are expected to be in the range 75 to 85 degrees. |  |
| **rate** | 1 the number of times something happens, or the number of examples of something within a particular period of time.  2 the speed at which something happens within a particular period of time. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **ray** | 1 an amount of light or heat from the sun (plural: rays).  1a a narrow line of light that you can see coming from the sun or a lamp. | The last rays of the sun were disappearing behind the mountains. |  |
| **reading** | a number or amount shown on a piece of measuring equipment. noun [countable] | Magnetism produces distorted compass readings. |  |
| **record** | 1 information kept about something that has happened. noun [countable]  2 If a piece of equipment records an amount, it measures it and shows it. verb [transitive] | Temperatures as low as -70 degrees Celsius have been recorded. |  |
| **relative humidity** | the amount of water vapour in the air. noun [uncount] |  |  |
| **relief** | the elevations of a land surface. noun [count] | a relief map shows highland and lowland areas. |  |
| **renewable** | renewable energy and natural materials replace themselves by natural processes, so that they are never completely used up. adjective |  |  |
| **resource** | things such as coal, trees, and oil that exist in nature and can be used by people. noun [usually plural] |  |  |
| **rise** | 1 **rise** or **rise up**: to move upwards or to a higher position. **verb [intransitive]**  2 if a wind rises, it starts to become stronger. verb [intransitive] | Temperatures will rise steadily towards the end of the week. |  |
| **rotate** | to move in a circle around a fixed central point, or to move something in this way. verb [intransitive/transitive] | The Earth rotates 360 degrees every 24 hours. |  |
| **satellite** | 1 an object that is sent into space to travel round the Earth in order to receive and send information. noun [countable] | a spy/​communications/​weather satellite. |  |
| **saturated** | very wet. **adjective** | After a night in the rain the clothes were saturated. |  |
| **savanna** | a large flat area of land covered with grass in a warm part of the world. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| **scarce** | if something is scarce, there is not very much of it. **adjective** |  |  |
| **selva** | a dense tropical rain forest. **noun [singular]** |  |  |
| **settled** | Not changing or likely to change. **adjective** | The weather should become more settled next week. |  |
| **severe** | severe weather is extremely unpleasant and likely to cause harm or damage. adjective | Severe thunderstorms are forecast for Tuesday night. |  |
| **shaduf** | a device consisting of a long pole weighted at one end and with a bucket at the other end, used for raising water. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **sheltered** | 1 a sheltered place is not affected by bad weather. adjective | These plants will flourish in a sunny sheltered position. |  |
| **shower** | a short period when it rains or snows. noun [countable] | Tonight there’s a 50% chance of showers. |  |
| **sky** | the space above the Earth that you see when you look up into the air. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **sleet** | a mixture of snow and rain. noun[uncountable] |  |  |
| **smog** | polluted air that forms a cloud close to the ground. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **snow** | small soft white pieces of ice that fall from the sky and cover the ground. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **soakage** | the amount of liquid that soaks into, through, or out of an object. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **solar** | relating to the Sun, or coming from the Sun. | solar power |  |
| **south-easterly** | a south-easterly wind blows from the south-east  adjective |  |  |
| **south-westerly** | a south-westerly wind blows from the south-west  adjective |  |  |
| **spell** | a period when there is a particular type of weather.  noun [countable] | A prolonged wet spell causes trouble for fruit farmers. |  |
| **spring** | the season of the year between winter and summer. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| **squall** | a storm that happens suddenly, especially at sea. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **starry** | a starry sky or night is one where a lot of stars can be seen in the sky. adjective |  |  |
| **Stevenson’s screen** | A box, usually painted white, used to shade thermometers in weather stations. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **sticky** | sticky weather is hot and damp (=with a lot of water in the air). adjective | a warm and sticky summer afternoon |  |
| **stratus** | flat grey cloud that is low in the sky. noun [uncountable] |  |  |
| **subartic** | relating to the very cold parts of the world just south of the Arctic circle. **adjective** |  |  |
| **subtropical** | from or relating to the warm parts of the world just north and south of the tropics. **adjective.** |  |  |
| **summer** | the season between spring and autumn, when the weather is hottest. **noun [count/uncount]** | He spent the summer in Paris. |  |
| **summertime** | the period of the year when it is summer. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **sunlight** | the light from the sun. noun [uncountable] | bright/​brilliant/​strong sunlight |  |
| **sunshine** | light from the sun. This word is used especially to mean that the light is warm and pleasant. noun [uncountable] | The sea was sparkling in the early morning sunshine. |  |
| **swirl** | to move quickly in circles, or to make something move in this way. verb [intransitive/transitive] | Snowflakes were swirling all around us. |  |
| **taiga** | An area of land situated below the tundra in the northern hemisphere. It has cold winters and warm summers with many coniferous trees. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **taproot** | the main straight root of a plant that has smaller roots growing out from its side. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **temperate** | never having extremely hot or extremely cold weather. **adjective** | temperate countries/regions/zones |  |
| **temperature** | a measurement of how hot or how cold a place or object is. Temperature is measured in degrees Celsius or degrees Fahrenheit, using the symbol °. **noun [count/uncount]** | It’s stopped snowing here but the temperature is still minus three. |  |
| **thermometer** | a piece of equipment that measures temperature. noun [countable] |  |  |
| **thorn** | a sharp point that sticks out from the stem of a plant. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **thrive** | to become very successful, happy, or healthy. verb [intransitive] | This type of plant thrives in cool conditions. |  |
| **thunder** | the loud noise that you sometimes hear in the sky during a storm. noun [uncountable] | a roll of thunder (=a series of noises)  a clap of thunder (=a single very loud noise) |  |
| **thunderstorm** | a heavy storm with thunder (plural: thunderstorms). noun [countable] |  |  |
| **topsoil** | the layer of soil that is near the surface of the ground. **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| **tornado** | A very strong wind that goes quickly round in a circle or funnel (also called a *twister*). **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **torrential** | torrential rain falls fast in large amounts. adjective |  |  |
| **towering** | much taller than surrounding people or things. **adjective.** |  |  |
| **trade wind** | a wind that blows continuously towards the equator noun [countable] |  |  |
| **tropical** | used about weather that is very hot, especially when the air also feels slightly wet. adjective | Tropical heat can make you feel very tired. |  |
| **tropics, the** | the hottest parts of the Earth, that are near the equator. They are between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. **noun [plural]** |  |  |
| **tundra** | a large flat area of land without trees in very cold northern parts of the world. **noun [count/uncount]** |  |  |
| **typhoon** | a tropical storm with strong winds that move in circles. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **unequal** | Not the same in amount, number, or size. **adjective** | unequal payments |  |
| **unsettled** | unsettled weather changes a lot during a short period and there is a lot of wind and rain. adjective |  |  |
| **vapour** | very small drops of water or other liquids in the air that make the air feel wet. noun [countable/uncountable] |  |  |
| **variation** | the existence of differences in amount, number, level, form etc. noun [singular/uncountable] | There is considerable variation in size, method of construction, and design |  |
| **vegetation** | plants and trees. **noun [uncount]** | a type of vegetation that is found only in this part of the world. |  |
| **warm front** | The front edge of a mass of warm air that brings warm weather when it moves into an area. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| **warm** | to make something or someone warm. **verb [transitive]** | The morning sun warms the kitchen nicely. |  |
| **waxy** | smooth and shiny like wax. **adjective** | waxy flower petals |  |
| **weather** | the conditions that exist in the atmosphere relating to temperature, precipitation, and other features. noun [uncount] | Unsettled weather will continue through the weekend. |  |
| **weather vane** | an object, often an arrow or a model of a cock, that is fixed to the top of a building and points in the direction the wind is coming from. noun [count] |  |  |
| **westerly** | 1 towards or in the west.  2 a westerly wind blows from the west. adjective |  |  |
| **windy** | 1 with a lot of wind.  1a used about places where there is a lot of wind.  adjective | a windy beach |  |
| **winter** | the season after autumn and before spring, when it is usually cold. noun [count] |  |  |
| **wispy** | If something is wispy, it has a long, thin, delicate shape, for example a cloud, smoke, or hair. **Adjective** |  |  |