

Winds and the British climate

The effects of different air masses (winds) on the UK's climate

Northerly (polar) air masses (winds)

- are cold because they come from colder, higher latitudes.
- are dry because they absorb moisture as they move into warmer, lower latitudes.

Easterly winds come from the Eurasian landmass.

- They can bring cold conditions in winter, warm in summer.
- They are usually dry because they can absorb little water vapour over the landmass.

Prevailing south-westerly winds blow from the Atlantic Ocean.

- They give rise to temperate conditions with cool summers and mild winters.
- They are rain-bearing because they absorb moisture over the warm ocean.

Southerly (tropical) winds

- are warm because they come from warmer, lower latitudes.
- may bring rain as they reach cooler, higher latitudes.

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Easterly winds come from the Eurasian landmass.

- 3 They can bring
- 4 They are usually dry because they can

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- 7 They give rise to temperate conditions
- 8 They are rain-bearing because

Southerly (tropical) winds

- 5 are warm because
- 6 may