

Previously on English Bites we've looked at ways of describing the weather. Today we're going to look at those weather words a bit more closely, and look at some unusual phrases.

**KARAH:** Hot **weather**.

**MICHAEL:** Hot weather.

Well, the fact that it doesn't **rain** for starters so I can ride my bike everywhere, the fact that I can just walk around in t-shirt and shorts and not have to worry about what the weather's like outside 'cause it's going to be hot.

**JAYDNNE:** I love a hot day, not really muggy, not really humid but just hot so I can go out in the **sun**.

I like it because you can just wear a t-shirt and some shorts and it's great weather for just sitting around not doing a lot.

**SUSAN:** I really enjoy spring weather. I think the most perfect day would be a spring day for me when there's lot of **blossoms** and lots of birds around to hear.

#### story notes

##### **weather**

**Weather** means the climate, or what it's like outside.

Weather words are the subject of today's spotlight.

##### **rain**

Here are some idioms that use the word rain.

##### **take a raincheck**

To take a raincheck is to delay something, or do it at a later time.

This expression comes from the name of the tickets given to spectators at outdoor events that might be postponed by rain.

##### **save money for a rainy day**

to put money away for the future, when things might not be so good

You should **save money for a rainy day**.

##### **rain on your parade**

to spoil your plans, or to stop you from enjoying something special

##### **right as rain**

perfectly well

I'll be as **right as rain** tomorrow.

##### **rain cats and dogs**

rain very heavily

## sun

Here are some expressions that use the word **sun**.

### **make hay while the sun shines**

make use of a good opportunity while you can

### **a place in the sun**

a nice place to be; especially a favourable position in your professional life

With this job I've finally found my **place in the sun**.

### **under the sun**

in the whole world

English Bites is the best show **under the sun**.

## blossoms

flowers on trees

The blossom on the cherry tree doesn't last for long.

But to **blossom** can also mean to develop or become more attractive or successful.

She has **blossomed** since she went to a new school.

## spotlight

### weather words

**Weather** means the climate, or what it's like outside.

Notice it's spelt **w-e-a-t-h-e-r**.

But watch out, because there's another word that sounds exactly the same spelt **w-h-e-t-h-e-r**.

**Whether** means 'if', if something is the case.

There's a rhyme that's often used to help people remember the difference:

**Whether** the **weather** be fine  
Or **whether** the **weather** be not,

**Whether** the **weather** be cold  
Or **whether** the **weather** be hot,

We'll **weather** the **weather**  
Whatever the **weather**,  
**Whether** we like it or not.

more information: [weather or whether](#)

The word **weather** has also got quite a few different meanings.

It can mean to cope or deal with something difficult.

We say someone has **weathered a storm** to mean they have come through difficult times.

To **weather** can also mean to be affected by the weather, to change or fade due to sun, wind and rain.

The outside of the house is **weathered** and needs to be repainted.



And there are lots of other weather phrases as well.

**under the weather**

feeling sick

I'm feeling **under the weather** today.

**fair-weather friend**

friend only in good times

You find out who your **fair-weather friends** are when you get into trouble.

**keep a weather eye open**

keep a close watch on

You need to **keep a weather eye open** to make sure that the heating stays on.

**under a cloud**

in doubt; not trusted; with a bad reputation

I left **under a cloud**, but to me it felt like a blaze of unwelcome light.

**on cloud nine**

very happy or excited

I was **on cloud nine** when I won the lottery.

**storm in a teacup**

big fuss over something small

It's just a **storm in a teacup** and will be forgotten in a week.

**put the wind up you**

make you feel cross; make you feel afraid

Talk about cutbacks is putting the wind up the staff.