

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**.